

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

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1 June 2022

Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) is the peak professional association for exercise and sports science professionals in Australia, representing more than 10,000 members comprising university qualified Accredited Exercise Physiologists, Accredited Sports Scientists, Accredited High Performance Managers and Accredited Exercise Scientists.

Exercise physiology is a self-regulated allied health profession that has met the benchmark standards set by the [National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions \(NASRHP\)](#) for the regulation and accreditation of practitioners within that profession. Other recognised allied health professions like dietetics, audiology and speech pathology are also self-regulated health professions meeting NASRHP standards.

ESSA acknowledges that the Health Practitioner National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 relates to health practitioners regulated through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and supports the objectives to:

- strengthen public safety and confidence in the provision of health services;
- improve the governance of the National Scheme; and
- enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the scheme.

Part 24: Referral to other entities

ESSA currently has members who are regulated through Ahpra and accredited through ESSA. For example, they may carry registration as a physiotherapist and accreditation as an exercise physiologist and are therefore regulated through ESSA. Within the draft legislation, ESSA notes that National Boards can:

- refer notification of complaints to other entities at preliminary assessment stage
- ask other entities for outcomes on referred notifications

ESSA recommends that:

1. Health professionals holding dual status with Ahpra and a self-regulated allied health profession that are members of NASRHP are included in the 'entities' for referral for complaints by National Boards.
2. Ahpra provide outcomes on complaints to peak professional bodies where health practitioners hold dual regulatory status.
3. The examples provided for entities specifically list 'peak professional associations' in addition to police, courts, jurisdictional health complaints entities, other health regulators such as state-based medicines and poisons regulators, and health services or employers.

We welcome the opportunity to provide further detail if required. Please contact ESSA Policy & Advocacy Advisor, Judy Powell, on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED] for further information or questions arising from the following submission.

Yours sincerely



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