

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

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Parliament House
Queensland

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Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Dear Members of the Committee

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) is the recognised national peak association representing Australia's allied health professions, and is the only organisation with representation across all disciplines and settings. We have 25 allied health member organisations and a further 12 affiliates with close links to allied health. A full list of our members is available at <https://ahpa.com.au/our-members/>.

The scope of allied health encompasses preventive and primary care (including chronic illness), aged care, disability (including the NDIS) and veterans' care. This breadth makes allied health Australia's second largest health workforce, with over 200,000 allied health professionals.

AHPA makes no specific comment on the content of the Bill itself, but we alert the Committee to the fact that several significant allied health professions are self-regulated, rather than being subject to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law ('National Law'). Relevant professions include speech pathology, dietetics, audiology, exercise physiology, social work, music and arts therapy, and orthotics/prosthetics, among others.

It is important to understand that these professions are currently held to standards of skill, competency and risk management equivalent to those mandated by the National Law, and therefore that the National Scheme does not continue to cause unintended consequences for those allied health professionals. We are happy to provide further detail if required.

Yours sincerely

Claire Hewart
Chief Executive Officer

Advocating on behalf of Australia's allied health professions to create fairer and more equitable health, aged care and disability systems.