

## Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023

**Submission No:** 17  
**Submitted by:** Catholic Health Australia  
**Publication:**  
**Attachments:**  
**Submitter Comments:**



12 May 2023

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

By email: [HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Ms Easten

**RE: Inquiry into the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023***

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) is Australia's largest non-government grouping of health, community, and aged care services accounting for about 15 per cent of hospital-based healthcare in Australia. Our members operate hospitals in each Australian State and in the ACT, providing about 30 per cent of private hospital care and 5 per cent of public hospital care in addition to extensive community and residential aged care. CHA not-for-profit providers are a dedicated voice for the disadvantaged which advocates for an equitable, compassionate, best practice and secure health system that is person-centred in its delivery of care.

CHA appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the Committee's inquiry into the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023*.

CHA unequivocally supports the proposed amendments to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023* (Qld) which will amend the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* (National Law) and does not allow the accreditation of medical practitioners in surgical specialties that are not recognised by the Australian Medical Board as Surgeons or Specialists accredited by the Royal Australian College of Surgeons.

The amendments will protect the title 'surgeon' to safeguard the public and strengthen the regulation of cosmetic surgery in Australia and in doing so clarify the decision-making authority of tribunals.

The amendments will also assist in protecting consumers from harm by helping to improve health literacy and understanding around the cosmetic surgery industry, supporting more informed decisions and improved health outcomes.

As a relevant aside, CHA members do not have non-FRACS (Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) qualified cosmetic surgeons in their hospitals. CHA member hospitals retain robust medical practitioner credentialling systems that ensure the highest level of professional practice and behaviours to facilitate safe and high-quality care and service delivery across their many hospital sites. This includes

ensuring credentialled practitioners hold the recognised surgical specialty qualifications for their scope of practice.

If the Committee would like further detail as to what a robust credentialling system can look like, CHA member hospitals nationally would be very happy to visit the Committee and/or to host Committee members on site as would be helpful.

If the Committee wishes to discuss anything further, please contact me on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Caitlin O'Dea**

Director, Health Policy  
Catholic Health Australia