

## Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	Australasian College of Paramedicine
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<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

31 March, 2025

Dr Jodhi Rutherford, Committee Secretary  
Health, Environment and Innovation Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: [HEIC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:HEIC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Dr Rutherford,

**RE: QLD Parliament Inquiry into the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

The Australasian College of Paramedicine (the College) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the QLD Parliament Inquiry into the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill).

The College is the peak professional body representing and supporting paramedics across Australasia. We champion the role of paramedics in emergency, urgent and primary care, driving a connected, multidisciplinary approach to high-quality healthcare in all communities.

The College is future-focused and committed to enhancing person-centred care through sustainable, evidence-based approaches and holistic workforce initiatives that see paramedics valued and utilised across the healthcare system for their unique clinical and leadership capabilities. With our reach across jurisdictions, practice contexts and employment relationships, the College is uniquely situated to lead and advocate for the role of paramedics across the broader healthcare system.

Furthermore, the College advocates for Chief Paramedic Officers to be appointed in all Australian states and territories<sup>1</sup> to improve health system and care delivery and workforce utilisation.

**Commentary in support of the Bill**

The College strongly supports the amendment to the Hospital and Health Boards Act, which mandates the appointment of at least one registered health practitioner to each hospital and health board in Queensland. This reform is crucial for several reasons:

Having a clinician on all the relevant boards ensures that decisions are informed by firsthand experience and practical knowledge of the healthcare system. Clinicians also bring invaluable insights into patient care and service delivery. Their direct involvement in decision-making processes will lead to more effective and patient-centered outcomes.

This amendment addresses a significant gap in the current system where critical decisions are often made without adequate consultation with those who are on the front lines of healthcare - paramedics. Throughout Queensland, paramedics are at the frontline of emergency response,

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urgent care and primary care where they meet the healthcare needs of the community where other areas of the system let them down with accessibility issues and workforce challenges.

Moreover, the inclusion of clinicians, particularly paramedics, in leadership roles is essential for addressing the specific needs of the community. For example, the ongoing hospital ramping issues that plague the health system could benefit from paramedic leadership and insight – it's an issue that stems from healthcare system failures not the ambulance service.

Hospitals and health services would benefit from paramedic leadership to navigate the complexities of modern healthcare. Paramedics play a critical role in emergency response and patient care, and their leadership is vital for ensuring efficient and effective service delivery. Empowering paramedics with leadership opportunities will enhance their ability to contribute to the healthcare system and improve patient outcomes.

Appointing clinicians to hospital and health boards is a necessary step towards a more responsive and effective healthcare system. It ensures that those who understand the intricacies of patient care are at the forefront of decision-making, leading to better health outcomes for all Queenslanders.

**Fostering leadership within the paramedic profession will further strengthen our healthcare system and ensure that it meets the needs of our communities.**

Yours sincerely,



John Bruning  
Chief Executive Officer

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<sup>i</sup> Australasian College of Paramedicine, Position Statement: Chief Paramedic Officers website: [Chief-Paramedic-Officers-Position-Statement-AUS.pdf](#)