

Inquiry - Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Australian College of Nurse Practitioners response to:

Queensland Parliament

Inquiry into the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill
2024 (the Bill)

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Queensland Parliament
Office of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

By online survey portal, date: 7 January 2025

To the Office of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Inquiry into the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) is the leading national body representing nurse practitioners. It drives the advancement of nursing practice and strengthens consumer access to healthcare services. Nurse practitioners are uniquely equipped to address unmet healthcare needs within communities and expand access to high-quality care, especially for underserved populations.

The ACNP supports and applauds the Bill's nationally consistent approach to improving public protection and confidence in the safety of services provided by registered health practitioners through the three reforms listed below (from page 4. of the supplied explanatory notes). These amendments promote transparency, ensuring that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practice competently and ethically are registered. Furthermore, as stated the amendments also enable consumers to make fully informed decisions about their choice of healthcare professional based on information published on the public register for practitioners who have engaged in serious sexual misconduct and enforces greater protection for notifiers.

National Law amendments supported include:

1. Requiring cancelled and disqualified practitioners to seek a reinstatement order from a responsible tribunal before applying to a National Board for re-registration;
2. Providing greater information to the public about practitioners who have been found to have engaged in professional misconduct, particularly involving serious sexual misconduct, by expanding the information required to be included on the national public registers; and
3. Providing greater protections for individuals who make notifications or assist regulators during investigations concerning registered health practitioners.

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Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important review. We welcome further engagement and are available to provide additional clarification as needed.

Yours sincerely



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