



22 July 2016

Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
Georges Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

To the Research Director

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Thank you for inviting the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) to provide a submission to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the *Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* (the Bill).

PHAA endorses the proposed amendments to the Bill including amending:

- the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse to 16 years, and to replace references to *sodomy* with *anal intercourse*
- the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* to facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database *The Viewer* and enable more efficient disclosure of confidential patient information for research purposes
- the *Public Health Act 2005* to:
 - allow health information relating to deceased patients to be disclosed for research purposes
 - enable schools to share student information with school immunisation and oral health services providers to improve the uptake of the School Immunisation Program and School Dental Program
 - make consequential amendments to reflect changes to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
- the *Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945* to facilitate the payment of bonuses to successful discoverers or inventors.

We commend the intentions of the Bill to support the implementation of policy initiatives to protect and improve the health of Queenslanders and to improve the operation of the acts.

The PHAA appreciates the opportunity to make this submission and would be happy to provide further consultation on public health policy issues should the committee require.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information or have any queries in relation to this submission.



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