

## Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025

<b>Submission No:</b>	2
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
<b>Publication:</b>	Making the submission and your name public
<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	



Australian College of Nurse Practitioners response to:

**The Queensland Parliament and Parliamentary Service  
Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025**

**Contact:**

Policy Advisor  
Australian College of Nurse Practitioners  
PO Box 33175 Melbourne Vic 3004  
Office: St Kilda Rd Towers, Suite 502  
1 Queens Road Melbourne  
[policy@acnp.org.au](mailto:policy@acnp.org.au)  
1300 433 660  
[www.acnp.org.au](http://www.acnp.org.au)

02 June 2025

Hon. Tim Nicholls MP  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
Queensland Parliament and Parliamentary Service

Submitted via online survey portal.

Dear Hon. Tim Nicholls MP,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025.

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 strongly advocates for the recognition of nurse practitioners' autonomous role and their capacity to lead healthcare teams across various contexts. This recognition is essential to advance the nursing workforce, support the modern nursing role, and dispel outdated perceptions.

The ACNP supports the amendments to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025 as outlined in the points below, which aim to ensure that the Bill remains up-to-date, modern, fit for purpose, and promotes transparency and accountability. The ACNP understands that the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIR) was established under the repealed Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945, section 3 (the Institute), and is continued in existence under this Act. The ACNP acknowledges that the purpose of the Institute is to initiate and conduct research into any branch of medical science, particularly in relation to diseases of particular significance to Queensland, and to direct and use the research to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Queensland.

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

**A:** PO Box 33175 Melbourne Vic 3004 | Office: St Kilda Rd Towers, Suite 502, 1 Queens Road Melbourne

**E:** [admin@acnp.org.au](mailto:admin@acnp.org.au) **P:** 1300 433 660 **W:** [www.acnp.org.au](http://www.acnp.org.au)

The ACNP also recognises the importance of ensuring that the Institute's work adheres to the principles of the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) and upholds the highest ethical obligations in all aspects of its research and operations.

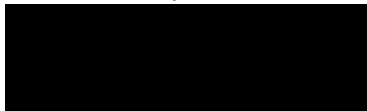
- providing more equitable arrangements for the payment of commercialised incentive payments from the Council to persons who discover, invent, or make a significant contribution to the Council's intellectual property;
- creating an obligation for the Council to immediately notify the Minister of matters that raise significant concerns about the financial viability, administration, or management of the Institute or Council;
- allowing the Council or the Director to delegate their functions or powers to appropriately qualified staff of the Institute;
- creating a legislative mechanism for the Minister to undertake criminal history checks on current and prospective Council members, placing an obligation on Council members to disclose changes to their criminal history, and making it an offence if a person with access to criminal history information discloses it in a way not permitted under the Bill;
- allowing the Minister to appoint and remove Council members and prescribe the circumstances in which a person is disqualified from becoming or continuing as a Council member;
- providing for general meeting procedures and requiring Council members to declare any material personal interest in a matter being considered by the Council;
- allowing the Council to appoint an Acting Director for a period of not more than six months, with the possibility to extend for a further six months with the Minister's approval;
- clarifying requirements for dealing with property gifted, devised or bequeathed to the Institute; and
- making minor and technical amendments to improve the operation of the new Act.

The ACNP supports and agrees that the amendments to the Bill (as stated in the Statement of Compatibility) aim to take the least restrictive approach to achieving their purpose of amending the legislation in alignment with existing laws. Furthermore, the ACNP agrees that the eligibility requirements for Council members and the Director are not unnecessarily prescriptive and allow for a broad and diverse range of skills and experiences to be considered. As stated, they also do not exclude candidates on arbitrary or discriminatory grounds and instead focus on ensuring that appointments are made in accordance with transparent, merit-based criteria. The requirement for Ministerial approval of the Director's appointment is also important to note, as it provides a safeguard to ensure accountability in the appointment process, particularly given the strategic and operational significance of the Director's role.

The ACNP commends the recognition and thoughtful consideration of the contributions and value nurse practitioners bring throughout this consultation process. We highlight the critical need to address the ongoing limited awareness among the public and healthcare professionals regarding the existence, capabilities, scope of practice, and contributions of nurse practitioners.

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



**Leanne Boase**

**Chief Executive Officer**

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

PO BOX 33175 Melbourne VIC 3004

St Kilda Rd Towers, Suite 502, 1 Queens Road Melbourne

leanne.boase@acnp.org.au

1300 433 660

**Australian College of Nurse Practitioners**

**A:** PO Box 33175 Melbourne Vic 3004 | **Office:** St Kilda Rd Towers, Suite 502, 1 Queens Road Melbourne

**E:** admin@acnp.org.au **P:** 1300 433 660 **W:** www.acnp.org.au