Health and Environment Committee

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 Report No. 21, 57th Parliament

Government Response

On 1 July 2022, the Health and Environment Committee (the Committee) published a report following its inquiry into the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill).

The report contains two recommendations. The Government's response to the recommendations is below.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 be passed.

Government response: noted

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services provides an undertaking, during the second reading debate, to not commence the provisions repealing the prohibition on testimonials in health service advertising until:

- the completion of the *Independent review* of the regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery, and
- the accompanying guidelines and educational material have been published.

Government response: supported in principle

This matter will be addressed during the second reading debate.

The final report from the *Independent review of the regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery* was publicly released on 1 September 2022. The recommendations from the review address actions across four key domains:

- education, training and qualifications
- management of notifications (complaints)
- advertising regulation
- influencing practice.

On 2 September 2022, State and Territory Health Ministers and the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Aged Care agreed to withdraw the clauses in the Bill pertaining to the use of testimonials in health service advertising. The Ministers agreed that issues involving the use of testimonials will be reviewed to ensure any changes are consistent with broader cosmetic surgery protections that will be forthcoming.

It is proposed that an amendment will be moved during consideration in detail to address both the committee recommendation and decision of Health Ministers.

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