



**Australian Government**

**Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare**

*Better information and statistics  
for better health and wellbeing*

Attention: Dr Kendall

I have been asked by Alison Verhoeven to send this letter to you.

This is a copy of the letter and as soon as I get David Kalisch to sign.

I will then put in the mail and I will also send you the electronic copy.

David is not in the office at the moment will be returning around 5pm.

If you have any problems please don't hesitate in giving me a call

Karen Mitchell

6244 1101

8/3/11



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Senator Claire Moore  
Chairperson  
Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Moore

**RE: Human Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2010**

The AIHW welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Community Affairs Legislative Committee regarding the Human Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2010.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is tasked with providing reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. Our aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. We collect and report information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The AIHW is a significant user of the administrative data from Centrelink and Medicare Australia in analysis and reports, and in our role supporting and collaborating with the research community. The AIHW has a set of robust and well-documented privacy and security policies and procedures that govern all of our work.

It is our understanding that the proposed Human Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 will place no further restrictions on the use by AIHW of data collected by Centrelink and Medicare Australia, allowing us to continue to use these data in the production of vital information in support of health and welfare analysis and research for informed policymaking and service delivery design. Any legislative amendments should not prejudice this current arrangement which enables effective and proper use of information collected by Centrelink and Medicare Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. Our contact officer for these matters is Mr Brent Diverty (Group Head, Continuing and Specialised Care Group).

Yours sincerely

Mr David Kalisch  
Director  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

8 March 2011