



29 June 2023

Mr James Strickland
Acting Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Legislation Committee
CANBERRA ACT 2600

via email community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Strickland

Inquiry into the Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review Scheme) Bill 2023

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 June 2023, inviting Ahpra to make a submission on the Committee's inquiry into the *Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review Scheme) Bill 2023* (the Bill).

We understand that the Bill progresses priority changes arising from recommendations of the Independent Review of Medicare Integrity and Compliance undertaken by Dr Pradeep Philip (the Philip review) that was commissioned by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Mark Butler.

The focus of the Bill is to amend the *Health Insurance Act 1973* to remove the requirement for the Australian Medical Association to agree to the appointment of the Director of the Professional Services Review (PSR); amend consultation requirements for appointing other statutory office holders of the PSR to enable consultation with relevant peak bodies directly; establish the statutory office of Associate Director of the PSR; remove the requirement for the Chief Executive Medicare to consult with stakeholder groups prior to issuing a notice to produce documents; and make minor amendments to update the wording of provisions relating to the termination of certain appointments. While we appreciate having the opportunity to comment on the Bill, we do not have any feedback to provide on these changes.

Ahpra would be interested in any future opportunities to discuss information sharing between Ahpra and the Professional Services Review Scheme; including any that may arise in response to recommendation 3.5 of the Philip review report to consider the optimal operating environment to support a culture of information sharing and risk mitigation awareness across the relevant government agencies and teams.

If you have any queries about our response,

Yours sincerely

Martin Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer

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Ahpra and the National Boards regulate these registered health professions: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, chiropractic, dental, medical, medical radiation practice, midwifery, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathy, paramedicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology.