

Naomi Bleaser
Committee Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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October 20, 2010

Dear Committee Secretary

National Health and Hospitals Network Bill 2010 – reintroduced into the House of Representatives on 29 September 2010

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee on the National Health and Hospitals Network Bill 2010. PHAA notes that the Bill:

“Establishes the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care as an independent statutory body and provides for: the functions and powers of the commission; appointment of members to the board of the commission; procedures of the board; the terms and conditions of employment, functions and powers of the Chief Executive Officer; staff and consultants; committees; and reporting and planning obligations of the commission.”

While PHAA is not seeking to provide detailed analysis of the process for the establishment and subsequent operational structure of the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission), it would like to provide input with regard to the broader context of the implementation of Council of Australian Government (COAG) reforms relating to health and hospitals. PHAA believes that this input is relevant to the proposed functions of the Commission and related establishment of model national accreditation schemes.

Please find attached:

1. PHAA's submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee's Inquiry into COAG Reforms Relating to Health and Hospitals – June 2010 (along with Attachments A and B to that submission);
2. Article by PHAA's Chief Executive Officer Michael Moore published by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association *“Primary Health Care Organisation tensions – Individuals and Populations”*; and

3. Opinion piece by PHAA President Professor Helen Keleher on the need for a whole of government approach to the implementation of the COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals.

These documents provide input with regard to the implementation of the COAG reforms and the achievement of key population health outcomes in the areas of community health, prevention and addressing health inequities. This input is relevant to the proposed functions of the Commission, related establishment of model national accreditation schemes, and reporting and planning obligations.

Should the Committee have any queries with regard to the information contained in this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6285 2373.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Walker
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Public Health Association of Australia