

19 October 2010

Committee Secretariat
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission to the National Health and Hospitals Network Bill 2010.

Allied Health Professionals Australia and the Australian Psychological Society provide the following response to the National Health and Hospitals Network Bill 2010.

The National Health and Hospital Commission Report made many recommendations to improve multidisciplinary practice through improved engagement with allied health clinicians. Unfortunately current practice is that allied health clinicians and their relevant representative organisations are often not invited to comment or participate in discussions regarding safety and quality.

It is in response to this that we ask that the current Bill be amended in Part 2—*Commission's establishment, functions and powers* under Section 10 *Additional provisions about standards, guidelines and indicators* point (2) *Consultation* where it currently reads:

Before formulating standards, guidelines or indicators, the Commission must consult:

- (a) clinicians; and
- (b) bodies known as lead clinician groups

be modified in this section to read:

Before formulating standards, guidelines or indicators, the Commission must consult:

- (a) medical and allied health clinicians; and
- (b) bodies known as lead medical and allied health clinician groups and their professional associations

Allied Health Professions Australia represents more than 50,000 allied health professionals, who work alongside doctors and nurses to provide optimum health care for all Australians.

The Australian Psychological Society has over 19,000 members representing psychologists and is the largest of all the non-medical health professional associations in Australia and represents the largest mental health workforce.

Yours in anticipation

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