

Committee Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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To the Committee Secretary

Re: Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review Scheme) Bill 2023

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) would like to thank the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee for the opportunity to provide feedback on the **Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review Scheme) Bill 2023**.

As the national leader of the nursing profession, ACN is committed to ensuring every person living in Australia has access to safe and equitable care. ACN advocates for access and health equity for all people through expert-informed, and person-centred care across the lifespan (for further details, please refer to ACN's [Person-Centred Care – Position Statement](#)). Medicare is an important component of an equitable level of health care and service. Therefore, ACN supports and agrees with all measures to protect the integrity of Medicare, ensuring that those health care workers defrauding Medicare are prosecuted.

ACN supports the Bill which:

- removes the veto power of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) in the appointment process of the Director of the Professional Services Review (PSR)
- amends consultation requirements for appointments of other statutory office holders of the PSR, including Deputy Directors, Panel members, and members of the Determining Authority, to enable consultation with relevant peak bodies directly
- enables the appointment of Associate Directors of the PSR
- removes the need for engagement with stakeholder groups as a prerequisite for issuing a notice to produce documents during an audit.

Significantly, PSR is an independent statutory agency responsible for protecting the integrity of the Medicare program by investigating inappropriate practice. PSR protects the community from risks associated with inappropriate practice and ensures the community does not have to pay for services that have not been delivered.

ACN believes that a robust Medicare program is essential to provide access to health care to all Australians no matter their location or financial status. ACN supports this Bill and the changes it heralds and welcomes further changes that will help Medicare regain its integrity and viability, helping to keep Australians healthy and well.

Given that Nurse Practitioners and Advanced Practice nurses have access to Medicare payments, ACN recommends that consideration be given to nurses being represented on PSR review panels.

If you have further enquiries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at

Yours faithfully

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Director – Policy and Advocacy
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