



14 August 2023

Pothida Youhorn
Committee Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Youhorn

Inquiry into the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry Bill 2023 and the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2023 (NORDR Bills)

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is Australia's largest national union and professional nursing and midwifery organisation. In collaboration with the ANMF's eight state and territory branches, we represent the professional, industrial and political interests of more than 320,000 nurses, midwives and carers across the country.

Our members work in the public and private health, aged care and disability sectors across a wide variety of urban, rural and remote locations. We work with them to improve their ability to deliver safe and best practice care in each and every one of these settings, fulfil their professional goals and achieve a healthy work/life balance.

The ANMF welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Senate Community Affairs Committee on the NORDR Bills. The ANMF notes the short turnaround time for providing feedback and provides limited comment on this basis.

The ANMF has had an opportunity to review the more detailed submission of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) on then NORDR Bills. The ANMF agrees with the recommendations spelled out in the ACTU's submission.

The ANMF welcomes the establishment of a National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry (Registry). The purposes of the Registry are broad. The Registry will likely dramatically improve our collective response to preventing occupational lung diseases in Australia.

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ANMF Journals

Australian Nursing and
Midwifery Journal (ANMJ)
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Australian Journal of
Advanced Nursing (AJAN)
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ABN 41 816 898 298



The ANMF supports the ACTU's call for the scope of the Registry to be broader than is currently proposed. At the commencement of the Registry, prescribed diseases need to include all diseases linked with exposures to dusts.

The ANMF has a dedicated research team, which regularly undertakes methodical and comprehensive research into various topics related to health. Consequently, the ANMF strongly supports the ACTU's recommendation that access to data for research purposes not be so restrictive. Access to such information, with appropriate oversight and consent, could be vital in allowing Australia's researchers to further develop regulatory responses to occupational lung diseases.

The establishment of the Registry is well overdue. The Registry has the potential to significantly improve worker health in Australia. The ANMF supports the recommendations made by the ACTU to further strengthen the Registry and hopes the NORDR Bills will be passed with their suggestions included.

If you have any questions concerning this submission, please contact Federal Industrial Officer Daniel Crute via email at daniel.crute@worksafe.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

Annie Butler
Federal Secretary