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Mr Hamish Hansford
Committee Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Mr Hansford

National Health and Hospitals Network Bill 2010 – the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

The AMA recommends that the Senate Committee examine this Bill concerning the role and function of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care together with the proposed roles and functions of the other bodies to be established under the COAG National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement (NHHNA), namely, the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) and the National Performance Authority (NPA).

From the little detail available, it appears there will be important synergies between the three bodies and this should be reflected in the legislation.

We believe legislation for all three bodies needs to:

- clarify the regulatory interaction between them;
- provide clarity on their roles and responsibilities; and
- ensure appropriate legislative links and references to various activities and recommendations made by these bodies.

It is obviously not possible to assess this without seeing the proposed legislation for the IHPA and the NPA. We understand that this legislation will not be available until 2011.

Further, the AMA will be very interested to see what obligations governments will have to comply with under the recommendations of all three bodies.

Our view, therefore, is that all the legislation supporting the establishment of the new bodies under the COAG NHHNA should be considered together.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Pesce
President

19 August 2010