



07 April 2010

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Committee Secretary  
Community Affairs Legislative Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
ACT 2600

### **Health Practitioner Regulation (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2010**

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) thanks the Senate Community Affairs Legislative Committee for the opportunity to comment on the Health Practitioner Regulation (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2010.

The ANMC was established in 1992 to facilitate a national approach to nursing and midwifery regulation. It is the peak body that works with State and Territory Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) in evolving standards for statutory nursing and midwifery regulation. These standards are flexible, effective and responsive to the health care requirements of the Australian population.

The ANMC's prime function is to protect public safety in the provision of healthcare through ensuring the nurses and midwives being regulated are competent to practice.

The ANMC notes that the proposed definition to be included in the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, Section 5 Subsection 3(1)(a)(b), includes reference to registered nurse (Division 1) and enrolled nurse (Division 2) and that this definition is consistent with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 Part 10 s222, Table - Public National Registers.

ANMC position regarding the definition remains that the inclusion of 'Division 1' and 'Division 2' in the definition of registered and enrolled nurses is not appropriate. ANMC again contends that 'Division 1' and 'Division 2' is not nationally accepted terminology for registered nurses and enrolled nurses and is not used in seven out of the eight jurisdictions. Its inclusion will lead to confusion for the vast majority of registered and enrolled nurses and the community. ANMC therefore request the removal of the terminology (Division 1) and (Division 2) from the proposed definition "nurse".

ANMC's position regarding this is reflected in the position of the Australian Peak Nursing and Midwifery Forum and has been consistent throughout submissions regarding the national regulation of nurses and midwives.

Once again the ANMC welcomes the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Executive Officer