

Chapter 3—National Health Performance Authority

1. Section 72 Membership of the Performance Authority

It may be of concern that the only people examining the performance of the State and territory hospitals and health services are appointees of those States and Territories. It is probable that the appointees will be senior officials from that State or Territory.

Senators might like to consider having at least one consumer representative or health economist appointed as a 6th member.

2. Timeliness

One of the issues raised by the Productivity Commission¹ as a difficulty in reviewing hospital performance was the timely provision of health and hospital data.

Senators may wish to consider including some provision to ensure information is provided to the Performance Authority within a specified reasonable time.

Senators may also wish to provide some provision for timely reporting by the Authority.

Currently there is up to a 2 year lag between patient episodes and aggregated information on groups of patients being published. If this time frame for accessing information is maintained the usefulness of Authority reports would be diminished.

¹ Productivity Commission Performance of Public and Private Hospitals Research Report December 2009
<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/hospitals/report>