

27 April 2011

Ms Toni Matulick
Inquiry Secretary
Community Affairs Legislation Committee
By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Matulick

Re: National Health Reform Amendment (National Health Performance Authority) Bill 2011

Thank you for your invitation to our organisation to make a submission to a Senate Inquiry in relation to the above Bill. Both the ACSQHC and the National Health Performance Authority are of interest to our Society.

In recent years, we have responded to the Government's calls for consultation in relation to its healthcare reform agenda. It has given us the opportunity to put forward our concerns about patient safety and quality in relation to provision of services.

Since late 2009 we have been an active stakeholder and contributor to the development of the National Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards and will continue to work closely with ACSQHC in relation to those Standards and their implementation and in particular to better regulation of office based surgery.

The role and functions of the National Health Performance Authority as described in this Bill will also have an impact on the individual members of our Society as well as the Society that represents them. The performance and funding of public hospitals affects more than 80% of our members given their continuing role as consultants and supervisors of training within public hospitals. We look forward to our interaction with the Authority with keen interest.

Given the technical nature of this Bill we will not comment on its specific provisions. We will maintain a watching brief on all matters affecting the welfare of patients as the health reform process is rolled out. We have a proud history of quality patient care in plastic surgery and will continue to align our organisation with national standards of excellence to ensure the best outcomes for patients within our care.

Yours sincerely

Peter Callan, MBBS FRACS (Plast) MBA
President