

COVID-19 legislative scrutiny

February 2021

1 – 7 February 2021

Bill/ Instrument	Date registered/ introduced	Description
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Essential Goods) Repeal Determination 2021 [F2021L00090]	01/02/2021	This instrument repeals the Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Essential Goods) Determination 2020 on the basis that the Minister for Health is no longer satisfied that it is no longer necessary to prevent or control the entry, emergence, establishment or spread of COVID-19 in Australia, in light of there being sufficient access to supply of essential goods in Australia and insufficient evidence that price gouging of essential goods is presently occurring.
Veterans' Entitlements (Pension Bonus Scheme—Non-accruing Members) Amendment Declaration 2021 [F2021L00092]	02/02/2021	This instrument declares that a specified kind of member of the Pension Bonus Scheme is a non-accruing member throughout a specified period where a person is unable to work due to the impact of COVID-19, and as a result, is unable to pass the work test in order to accrue a bonus period.

8 – 14 February 2021

Bill/ Instrument	Date registered/ introduced	Description
Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Basic Subsidy Amount—COVID-19 Support) Determination 2020 [F2021L00111]	10/02/2021	This instrument provides that the aged care subsidy in relation to care recipients on extended hospital leave will not be reduced during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (inclusive), noting that during the COVID-19 pandemic, many aged care recipients have been moved from residential aged care to hospital settings for extended periods of time.

15–21 February 2021

Bill/ Instrument	Date registered/ introduced	Description

Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Early Childhood Education and Care Coronavirus Response and Other Measures) Bill 2021	17/02/2021	This bill would alter laws relating to the early childhood education and care sector, including by introducing business continuity payments for approved child care providers to be paid on a discretionary basis in circumstances where they are adversely affected by future disasters or emergencies.
Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 1) Bill 2021	17/02/2021	This bill would make temporary amendments the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> relating to meetings of directors, shareholders of companies and members of registered schemes to facilitate the use of electronic technology, and to allow the electronic execution of company documents while the COVID-19 pandemic continues.
National Health (Electronic National Residential Medication Chart Trial) Amendment Special Arrangement 1 of 2021 [F2021L00126]	18/02/2021	This instrument allows an additional 155 residential aged care facilities to participate in the Electronic National Residential Medication Chart Trial and utilise electronic prescribing software during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Amendment (Home Affairs Measures No. 1) Regulations 2021 [F2021L00129]	19/02/2021	This instrument provides legislative authority for the Government to make pandemic leave disaster payment grants (pandemic payments) to eligible individuals who are, or were, unable to earn income because they are, or have been, required to remain in isolation as a quarantine measure, or are caring, or cared, for a person required to remain in isolation as a quarantine measure, as a result of the coronavirus.
Australian Immunisation Register Amendment (Reporting) Rules 2021 [F2021L00133]	19/02/2021	This instrument makes it mandatory for all vaccination providers to report vaccines given, including any COVID-19 vaccine, to the Australian Immunisation Register, and establishes the information which must be provided in relation to the provision of a vaccine.

22–28 February 2021

Bill/ Instrument	Date registered/ introduced	Description
Migration Amendment (2021 Measures No. 1) Regulations 2021 [F2021L00136]	22/02/2021	This instrument assists certain visa applicants and holders adversely affected by COVID-19 by altering the application requirements associated with specified visa categories owing to current travel restrictions.
Aged Care (Subsidy, Fees and Payments)	24/02/2021	This instrument ceases, from 1 March 2021, temporary home care viability supplement funding increases

Amendment (Cessation of Temporary Home Care Viability Supplement Funding Increases) Determination 2021 [F2021L00146]		<p>payable to approved aged care providers, which were announced on 31 August 2020.</p>
Migration (Class of persons for Visitor (Class FA) visa nil VAC) Instrument (LIN 21/021) 2021 [F2021L00150]	<p>25/02/2021</p>	<p>This instrument specifies that certain former Subclass 600 (Visitor) visa (Subclass 600 visa) holders can apply for a new Subclass 600 visa with a nil visa application charge where their travel to and/or stay in Australia has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – General Practice Attendance for Assessing Patient Suitability for a COVID-19 Vaccine) Determination 2021 [F2021L00156]	<p>25/02/2021</p>	<p>This instrument lists 16 new Medicare Benefits Schedule items to support general practices to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.</p>
Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021	<p>25/02/2021</p>	<p>This bill would also extend (from 1 April to 30 June 2021) the operation of amended social security provisions relating to youth allowance and jobseeker qualification; ordinary waiting periods; income free areas and taper rates; and portability. These were temporarily altered in response to COVID-19.</p>