

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

TRIM: D15-43910

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Health
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Submission to the Senate Select Committee on Health

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the Senate Select Committee on Health in relation to its inquiry into health policy, administration and expenditure. The attached document relates specifically to the request for submissions with a focus on the collection, linkage and access to health data, international policy developments, challenges faced, and reform proposals that may improve overall health outcomes.

Under the *National Health Reform Act 2011* and the *National Health Reform Agreement 2011*, the role of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is to lead and coordinate national improvements in healthcare safety and quality.

As a part of this role the Commission develops and supports national safety and clinical standards, formulates and implements national accreditation schemes, and develops national health-related data sets. The Commission also works to reduce unwarranted variation in practice and outcomes for individuals and populations, and coordinates national action to address healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

Use of health data and other mechanisms for monitoring safety and quality are key to informing improvement activities and the current interest of the committee is welcomed.

While the Commission will not be able to send a representative to attend the public hearing on this issue on Friday 11 December 2015, we can address any questions relating to this submission. For further information on this submission please contact:

Catherine Katz
Director, Safety and Quality Improvement Systems and Inter-government Relations

Yours sincerely

Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AM
Chief Executive Officer

7 December 2015