



Public Hearing - National Health Reform Amendment (National Health Performance Authority) Bill 2011

On 3 March 2011, the National Health Reform Amendment (National Health Performance Authority) Bill 2011 was referred to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing by the House of Representatives Selection Committee.

The House of Representatives Selection Committee has provided the Committee with a Report: http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/selc/reports/43rd_parliament/report_17.pdf

This Bill is intended to establish the National Health Performance Authority ("Performance Authority") envisaged by the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement as settled by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in April 2010 and reconfirmed in the Heads of Agreement – National Health Reform of 13 February 2011.

The National Health Reform Bill 2010 will establish the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care ("the Commission"). If it is enacted it will become the National Health and Hospitals Network Act 2011. The current Bill amends that Act to change the title, divide the Act into Chapters and add several new Chapters. Broadly the changes will involve:

- changing the title of the Act to the National Health Reform Act 2011, reflecting the outcomes of the COAG meeting of 13 February 2011;
- amending Chapter 1 to change the objects of the Act to include reference to the Performance Authority, and to include a number of new definitions related to the new authority;
- amending Chapter 2 dealing with the Commission to distinguish between provisions relating to the members and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and the new authority, and to introduce provisions relating to secrecy and disclosure of information by the Commission;
- adding a new Chapter 3 to establish the Performance Authority;
- adding a new Chapter 4 with miscellaneous machinery provisions.

The Committee is holding a public hearing in relation to this Inquiry on **Tuesday 4 March 2011 at 1.00pm in Committee Room 1R6, Parliament House CANBERRA.**

Further information in relation to the Committee's inquiry, including Terms of Reference and details on how to lodge submissions are now available on the Committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/reports.htm>

For media comment, please contact the Chair of the Committee, Mr Steve Georganas by phone on (08) 8376 9000.

For all other inquiries, please contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/haa.