



3 June 2009

Mr Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Humphery

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE (NATIONAL JOINT REPLACEMENT REGISTER LEVY) BILL 2009

Thank you for your letter dated 29 May 2009 advising that the provisions of the Private Health Insurance (National Joint Replacement Register Levy) Bill 2009 have been referred to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee.

The Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA) is the peak professional body for orthopaedic surgeons in Australia. The AOA National Joint Replacement Registry (NJRR) provides data on joint replacement operations carried out across Australia and is a valuable resource for the Australian community.

Although the NJRR has only been in existence and fully operational for a relatively short time, the information provided by the NJRR is already influencing joint replacement and associated technologies in a beneficial manner.

AOA has a contractual arrangement with the Commonwealth Government to manage and administer the NJRR. How the Government chooses to fund the NJRR is solely the decision of the Government and AOA plays no role in determining or influencing the funding arrangements.

AOA does not have specific comments on the Private Health Insurance (National Joint Replacement Register Levy) Bill. However AOA does wish to advise the Committee that we consider that the Bill will not have any impact on the continued independence, integrity and world-renowned quality of the NJRR.

Although we do not have specific comments on the Bill, AOA performs an integral role in administering the NJRR and we would be pleased to appear before the Committee, should a public hearing be held on 11 June 2009.

Yours sincerely

Ian Burgess
Chief Executive Officer