

## **FACT SHEET**

### ***HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW (TASMANIA) BILL 2010***

The *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania) Bill 2010* (the Bill) adopts the Schedule to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* of Queensland as a law of Tasmania. It enables Tasmania to enter and participate in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions (the national scheme).

Under the national scheme, registration and accreditation functions that were previously carried out by State authorities will be carried out by new national boards for each profession. This Bill abolishes the laws establishing Tasmanian registration authorities and transfers their powers to a new national agency.

The Bill provides that property that is transferred to the new national agency in accordance with the national law is exempt from the *Duties Act 2001*.

The Bill provides that the Minister can direct an existing Tasmanian registration authority to do or hand over certain things that will assist in the transition to the national scheme.

The national law provides that a national board may request certain criminal history information about a health professional from a police service in a State or Territory. The Bill gives the Tasmanian Police Commissioner the authority to release criminal history information within the meaning of the national law to a national board (or to the police service of another State or Territory).

The Bill also contains provisions of a savings and transitional nature. These provisions ensure that certain declarations under existing Tasmanian laws continue to operate after the commencement of the national law. They also ensure that if a complaint against a practitioner was made before the commencement of the national scheme, that the complaint continues to be dealt with appropriately after commencement. Similarly, if an offence had been committed under repealed law, the Bill provides a mechanism whereby a person can be prosecuted despite the repeal of the law.

The Bill provides that an existing Board is still responsible for delivering an annual report into its finances for the period leading up to and including, commencement of the national scheme.

The Bill clarifies that references in other Tasmanian law to registered health professionals does not extend to persons who have been registered as students or non-practising registrants under the national law.

Finally, the Bill contains a number of Schedules of legislation that will be repealed, revoked or rescinded following commencement of the national scheme.