

SECOND READING SPEECH

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania) Consequential Amendments) Bill 2010

Mr Speaker

As foreshadowed in the second reading speech for the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania) Bill 2010*, this Consequential Amendments Bill is the second Bill in a series of legislative amendments that is required to give effect to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professionals.

As members are aware, the first and principal Bill - the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania) Bill 2010* - adopts the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as law of Tasmania. .

The Consequential Amendments Bill makes consequential amendments to over 70 Tasmanian Acts and Regulations to reflect the changes enacted by the National Law.

The majority of the amendments relate to the descriptions and definitions of the various health professions. The health professions to be included in the scheme are: chiropractic, dental, medical, nursing and midwifery, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology.

The terminology is amended to reflect the National Law. This means that if a health professional is currently defined in an Act by reference to the relevant State registration Act, the amendments will now define that profession by reference to the relevant profession in the National Law.

For overall consistency, the *Acts Interpretation Act 1931* is amended to include standard definitions of “medical practitioner”, “registered nurse” and “enrolled nurse”. This is because there are many references to medical practitioners and nurses in a range of Acts. Rather than repeating the standard definitions in each Act, it is better to have a central definition.

The Bill has also provided the opportunity to undertake a statutory revision exercise in relation to references to medical practitioners in particular as they have been referred to variously in different Acts as a “medical practitioner”, registered medical practitioner” legally qualified medical practitioner” or “doctor”.

The Consequential Amendments Bill also amends the *Health Complaints Act 1995* to ensure consistency in the roles and relationship between the Health Complaints Commissioner and the National Boards in dealing with complaints and notifications about a health practitioner.

I commend the Bill to the House.