

2 July 2021

Mr David Mackie
Director-General
Department of Justice and Attorney General

By email: covid.bill@justice.qld.gov.au



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Dear Mr Mackie

Thank you for providing AMA Queensland with the opportunity to provide input on the *Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response – Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021*.

AMA Queensland is the state's peak medical body, representing over 9600 doctors across Queensland and throughout all levels of the health system.

Upon reading this Bill, AMA Queensland understands that a significant number of amendments do not directly relate to our members. Therefore, AMA Queensland will only address the amendments directly related to doctors.

Transitional provisions for Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response – Permanency) Amendment Act 2021

AMA Queensland wishes to state from the outset that we are in support of nurses and doctors working together to deliver better health outcomes for Queenslanders. However, AMA Queensland does not support role substitution and allowing health practitioners who are unqualified to complete certain tasks being authorised to complete those tasks.

AMA Queensland wishes to raise section 180, relating to nurse practitioners to sign advanced health directives (AHD), and consequently enabling nurse practitioners to assess whether the signatory had capacity at the time of signing. AHDs are extremely complex, and factors such as informed consent can be very complex. Therefore, AMA Queensland questions whether nurse practitioners have the adequate skills and training to assess such consent.

AMA Queensland cautiously supports the continuation of s180. On one hand, AMA Queensland supports this, as having a nurse practitioner complete this certificate is useful in rural and remote Queensland where it may not be possible for patients to access a doctor in a timely manner to complete this task. However, AMA Queensland is concerned as to whether nurse practitioners have the necessary skills and training to assess capacity. AMA Queensland is also concerned that this is another example of role substitution currently supported by the Queensland Government.

Thank you again for providing AMA Queensland with the opportunity to provide input on the *Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response – Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Dale".

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Perry".

Professor Chris Perry
President
AMA Queensland