



**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC.**

ABN 91 028 693 268

Dr Doug Shaw  
Acting Director  
Communicable Disease Control Branch  
SA Health  
Email: [melissa.martin@sa.gov.au](mailto:melissa.martin@sa.gov.au)

3 February 2022

Dear Dr Shaw

**Re: Change to Notifiable Conditions under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011***

On behalf of the Australian Medical Association in South Australia (AMA(SA)), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the notifiable conditions under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* (the Act), and specifically the notification requirements relating to influenza and genital chlamydia. We recognise the importance of collecting and reporting communicable disease data in identifying threats to public health and to system management.

The AMA(SA) Council notes your proposal to change the Act so that influenza and genital chlamydia will no longer be notifiable by medical practitioners but will continue to be notifiable by pathology services. In your letter of 19 January 2022, you note that the Communicable Disease Control Branch circulated consultation papers and invited comment on this issue in 2019. You may have on record the AMA(SA) response of that time: in a letter addressed to Dr Louise Flood dated 16 May 2019, we endorsed the proposed changes of that time as a means of eliminating some duplication of effort. We also asked that collection, monitoring and evaluation of the data relating to influenza and chlamydia cases continue with the same rigour, to ensure the health system is aware of any impacts of case numbers on patient care and the health system.

Nearly three years later, our support for the change has not altered. However, we must emphasise the importance of ensuring that appropriate records are kept and made available. When that letter was written, we could not know that the 2019 'flu season' included an abnormally high number of deaths and confirmed cases across Australia. But the numbers recorded that season, and the impact on the health system, demonstrate the importance of maintaining, and providing access to, accurate and up-to-date data sets and records. The evaluation tools we also asked for in 2019 – which would examine the impact of the notification changes – are an important measure to ensure any such changes achieve the desired results without introducing new threats.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as [president@amasa.org.au](mailto:president@amasa.org.au) or by calling Executive Assistant Mrs Claudia Baccanello on 8361 0109 if you have any questions about our response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Atchison'.

**Dr Michelle Atchison**  
President  
Australian Medical Association (SA)

2224 – CDCB-SAPHA regulation change\_030222