1. The Health Legislation (Health Practitioner Regulation National Law) Amendment Bill 2010 (the Bill) provides for administrative and consequential amendments to Queensland legislation to support the implementation of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions (the National Scheme).
2. The Bill is the third and final piece of the National Law for the National Scheme and is consistent with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) 2008 *Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions* (the IGA).
3. In addition to providing for the consequential and administrative amendments necessary to support implementation of the National Scheme, the Bill makes a minor amendment to the second piece of National Scheme legislation, the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, to exempt conciliation processes from the requirement otherwise imposed on health complaints entities to give notice of health practitioner health, conduct or performance issues. This amendment will ensure that the statutory privilege currently afforded to the conciliation process remains.
4. The National Scheme will commence operation on 1 July 2010 and is to initially apply to the following ten health professions: chiropractic, dental (dentists, dental prosthetists, dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists), medicine, nursing and midwifery, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology. From 1 July 2012, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, medical radiation practice and occupational therapy will also be included in the National Scheme.
5. Implementation of the National Scheme will allow for: improved safeguards for the public via the development and implementation of consistent high-quality registration standards; a more flexible, responsive and sustainable health workforce; the ability for registered health practitioners to work across jurisdictions more readily; and the reduction of administrative ‘red tape’.
6. Cabinet approved the Health Legislation (Health Practitioner Regulation National Law) Amendment Bill 2010 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
7. *Attachments*
* [Health Legislation (Health Practitioner Regulation National Law) Amendment Bill 2010](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)