1. The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions (the National Scheme) was implemented through the adoption of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* (National Law) by all states and territories in 2009 and 2010. The National Law regulates the following 14 health professions: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, chiropractic, dental, medical, medical radiation practice, nursing and midwifery, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology. Queensland is the host jurisdiction for the National Law under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld).
2. The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill) includes the following key reforms:
   * national regulation of paramedics, including the establishment of a Paramedicine Board of Australia;
   * enabling the COAG Health Council to make changes to the structure of National Boards by regulation following consultation;
   * recognition of nursing and midwifery as two separate professions, rather than a single profession, with the professions continuing to be regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia;
   * improvements to the complaints (notifications) management, disciplinary and enforcement powers of National Boards to strengthen public protection and ensure fairness for complainants (notifiers) and practitioners; and
   * technical amendments to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Law.
3. The Bill also includes consequential amendments to Queensland legislation. The most significant amendments are changes to the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*, to align it with changes made to the National Law. In addition, a small number of the amendments to the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* included in the Bill were requested by the Health Ombudsman as part of the *Inquiry into the performance of the Queensland Health Ombudsman’s functions pursuant to section 179 of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013* by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.
4. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 into the Legislative Assembly.
5. *Attachments*

* [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)