



MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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Mr Tony Sievers MLA
Chair Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee
GPO Box 3721
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Dear Mr Sievers

Re: Inquiry into the Medical Services Amendment Bill

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 February 2019, seeking clarification on an aspect of the Medical Services Amendment Bill raised in a submission from the Northern Territory PHN, specifically, whether the term 'Nursing Home' could be replaced with 'Aged Care Facility' (or similar) in line with the general trend of the Bill to modernise the language.

Advice from the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel is that the Long Title of the Medical Services Amendment Bill only allows amendments to the *Medical Services Act* while the term 'Nursing Home' is referenced within 23 other Northern Territory Acts and subordinate legislation, across a range of portfolios.

For consistency, the most appropriate approach to update this terminology is a comprehensive review. I have asked the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice to address this through the Statute Law Revision Bill process.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Matthew Jong, Senior Financial Analyst, from the Department of Health email matthew.jong@nt.gov.au

Yours sincerely

NATASHA FYLES

12/02/19