

From:
To: [EPSC EPSC](#)
Cc:
Subject: Medical Services Amendment Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 8 January 2019 8:46:06 AM

Secretariat: Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee

I refer to the recent email (30/11/18) directed to the Northern Territory PHN (NT PHN) calling for submissions to the inquiry into the Medical Services Amendment Bill 2018. I am responding on behalf of NT PHN but also take the opportunity to thank the committee for forwarding the Amendment Bill for our consideration.

As indicated in the Explanatory Memorandum the proposed amendments essentially seek to either reword or omit/repeal existing and/or insert new definitions, thereby providing greater clarification around terminology while reconfiguring existing clauses as matters are now captured in new definitions. NT PHN is fully supportive of the amendments proposed in the Bill.

Importantly the amendments also provide the Minister with relevant power to determine fees and charges consistent with the *Commonwealth Health Insurance Act 1973* and the National Health Reform Agreement 2012. In essence this modernises the existing Act bringing it into line with requirements. This is a sensible correction to the role of the Minister.

In providing this response NT PHN uses the opportunity to raise a small matter which the committee may wish to consider. The term Nursing Home is generally thought to be inappropriate and has generally been replaced with the following – Aged Care facility (or similar). This may be something that the committee may wish to consider as part of its modernisation process.

Regards,

Alan Graham
Executive Officer



