

Pathology Services Accreditation (Amendment) Bill

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Outline

The aim of the Bill is to make various machinery amendments to the *Pathology Services Accreditation Act 1984* prior to the commencement of its unproclaimed provisions.

Notes on Clauses

Clause 1 sets out the purposes of the Act.

Clause 2 provides that the Act comes into operation on Royal Assent.

Clause 3 defines the *Pathology Services Accreditation Act 1984* as being the Principal Act.

Clause 4 amends section 13 (6) of the Principal Act. This currently provides that after carrying out an inspection of the pathology service for the purpose of granting accreditation, the inspectors shall submit a report to the Pathology Services Accreditation Board “within fourteen days of the completion of the inspection”. The effect of the amendment is to require that such report be submitted within the time specified by the Board.

Clause 5 (1) inserts a new section 18A into the Principal Act. The new section empowers the Board to grant a pathology service provisional accreditation. This will be achieved by enabling the Board to deem a pathology service to be accredited while an application for accreditation is being processed.

A deemed accreditation continues either until the application is determined, for twelve months, or until the deemed accreditation is suspended or cancelled, whichever occurs first.

A deemed accreditation may be renewed by the Board.

Clause 5 (2) is a transitional provision. It provides that where a pathology service applies for accreditation within three months of the date of commencement of section 13 of the Act, that service is deemed to have been granted accreditation until accreditation is granted or refused, until the service is deemed to be accredited under section 18A or until the deemed accreditation is suspended or cancelled.

Clause 6 amends sections 28 (1) and 40 of the Principal Act and makes specific provisions for the prescribing of fees for accreditations and deemed accreditations under the Act, for renewals of accreditation, for the inspection of pathology services, and for extracts from the Register of Accredited Pathology Services.

Clause 7 inserts an “incorporation” provision in section 40 of the Principal Act. This will enable non-legislative material, such as standards and codes of practice, to be incorporated in regulations made under the Act.

