

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 1991

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Amendments to be moved on behalf of the Government

(Circulated by authority of the Acting Minister for Health,
Housing and Community Services, the Honourable Peter Staples MP)

NOTES ON AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1 alters clause 6 of the Bill which provides for the constitution of the Institute to be changed to allow representation of State and Territory Welfare and Housing Departments on the Institute's Board in addition to the existing Health Department representatives. This amendment provides for the Minister to nominate four additional persons to be members of the Institute's Board. Three of these persons will represent the interests of consumers of health, welfare and housing assistance services. The fourth person will have expertise in the research of public health issues. All of these persons are nominated by the Minister after the receipt of a recommendation from a body which represents the relevant consumer interests and a peak body which promotes research into public health issues. This amendment gives the potential for a broader range of consumer representation on the Institute's Board.

Amendment 2 alters clause 6 of the Bill by inserting paragraph (da) which provides that recommendations made to the Minister, by the relevant consumer interest bodies and a peak body which promotes research into public health issues, can be made by one or more bodies and can contain more than one name. This will enable the Minister to receive recommendations from more than one body which may represent the relevant consumer interest or promotes such research in a manner which does not preclude the possibility of new bodies being subsequently established.



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Amendment 3 alters clause 6 of the Bill so that the functions of the Institute will not be affected by reason only of a vacancy in the office of a member who represents the interests of consumers of health, welfare or housing services, a body which promotes research into public health issues or the staff of the Institute.

This is a procedural provision to ensure the Institute continues to be able to function in the event of a vacancy.

Amendment 4 alters clause 6 of the Bill so that the additional members of the Institute's Board who represent the interests of the relevant consumer bodies and a body which promotes research into public health issues are to be appointed by the Governor-General on a full-time or part-time basis for a period not exceeding 3 years.