1. The Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill) responds to a recent incident involving unsafe infection control practices at a Brisbane dental clinic. Those practices, which included inadequate staff training and sterilisation procedures, were found to be placing staff and patients at risk of coming into contact with infectious, blood-borne diseases, and breached the mandatory infection control obligations for health care facilities under the *Public Health Act 2005*.
2. Queensland Health (QH), with the cooperation of the Brisbane City Council, was able to issue a public health order temporarily closing the clinic until appropriate remedial measures were implemented. However, the incident revealed the need to strengthen the infection control framework to better protect the staff and patients of health care facilities.
3. The Bill therefore amends the *Public Health Act 2005* to:
   * better prevent infection risks from arising at health care facilities, by providing clearer guidance about the standards of practice and competency required of health care facilities and their employees;
   * enhance the ability of QH to monitor compliance with the Act and investigate possible breaches; and
   * enable QH to take swift remedial action to contain and control risks when they occur, including by prosecuting breaches of the Act.
4. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Bill 2017 into the Legislative Assembly.
5. *Attachments*
   * [Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Bill 2017](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
   * [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)