1. The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009 (the Bill) is to provide the National Law, hosted by Queensland, that sets out the legal framework for the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions (the National Scheme).
2. The Bill is the second stage of the National Law for the National Scheme and is consistent with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) 2008 *Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions*. Furthermore, the Bill builds on the first stage of the National Law, the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008* (Qld) (Act A), which received assent by the Queensland Governor on 25 November 2008.
3. The second stage (this Bill) continues the administrative arrangements established under Act A and will also encompass the more substantial elements of the National Scheme, being arrangements for: registration; accreditation; complaints; conduct; health and performance; and privacy and information-sharing.
4. The National Scheme will commence operation on 1 July 2010 and is to initially apply to the following ten health professions: chiropractic, dental (dentists, dental prosthetists, dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists), medicine, nursing and midwifery, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology. From July 2012, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, medical radiation practice and occupational therapy will also be included in the National Scheme.
5. Once fully implemented, the National Scheme will allow for: improved safeguards for the public via the development and implementation of consistent high-quality registration standards; a more flexible, responsive and sustainable health workforce; the ability for registered health practitioners to work across jurisdictions more readily; and the reduction of administrative ‘red tape’.
6. Cabinet approved that Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
7. *Attachments*
* [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)