



Australian Medical Network

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
28 September 2022

### **Legislative gag on doctors must be stopped**

A bill is before the Queensland Parliament which would impose draconian limits on what doctors can say to their patients, if passed on 11 October.

Doctors will no longer be able to express their opinion or use their experience, training, and education, if their opinion goes against what the health bureaucrats say is in the interests of “public confidence in safety”. Doctors will be bound to follow government policy, which means that government health bureaucrats will determine how doctors should approach treatment recommendations for their patients.

The [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022](#) amends the National Law which regulates the health professions and is due to be debated in the Queensland Parliament on 11 October 2022.

The changes proposed in the Bill would give the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Medical Board of Australia the power to sanction doctors for expressing their professional opinion based on their assessment of the best available science.

*“The proposed change to the National Law significantly interferes with the doctor/patient relationship and is potentially disastrous for patient care”,* said CEO of the Australian Medical Network Dijana Dragomirovic.

If the Bill is passed by the Queensland Parliament, the changes to the National Law will apply automatically in other jurisdictions except New South Wales and South Australia, which must make regulations to adopt the changes, and Western Australia, which enacts its own separate legislation.

*This fundamental change to the relationship between ordinary Australians and their treating doctors must not be glossed over in the debate about the raft of other changes proposed in this Bill”* she said.

The Australian Medical Network calls for Queensland parliamentarians to oppose the Bill.

## **About AMN**

The Australian Medical Network (AMN) uses the power of the network and wider community to overcome Australia's health challenges and supports medical doctors and clinicians to discover new health therapies that provide safe and effective solutions to all Australians. Along with advancing health, we offer medical legal support, medical research, the latest health-related news, networking and educational events.

Across Australia, AMN has over 10,000 health professionals and private citizens in its network. They include medical practitioners, surgeons, virologists, epidemiologists, critical care specialists, pharmacologists, lawyers, health economists, academics, other health professionals and health management executives. Because of our combined education, training, and experience, this makes us highly competent to provide insight and warn this proposed Bill must be opposed.

## **Contact**

Dijana Dragomirovic  
CEO, Australian Medical Network (AMN)  
[dijana@australianmedicalnetwork.com](mailto:dijana@australianmedicalnetwork.com)