## **Impact Analysis Statement**

## **Summary IAS**

## Details

| Lead department                                       | Queensland Health  |
|---|--|
| Name of the proposal                                  | Proclamation – commencement of the Health Practitioner Regulation<br>National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025 |
| Submission type                                       | Summary Impact Analysis Statement  |
| Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument | Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation<br>Amendment Act 2025                                    |
| Date of issue   | October 2025   |

| Proposal type                 | Details   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Minor and machinery in nature | The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025 (Amendment Act) was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 3 April 2025 and received Royal Assent on 9 April 2025.  |
|                               | The Amendment Act amends the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law), which is set out in the schedule to the <i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009</i> (Qld), to give effect to nationally agreed reforms to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the health professions.   |
|                               | In 2013, Queensland amended the <i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009</i> to modify the application of the National Law in Queensland, to adopt a co-regulatory model. Queensland's co-regulatory model means that, in Queensland, the Office of the Health Ombudsman has primary responsibility for managing complaints about a health practitioner's conduct or performance but may refer appropriate matters to national regulators to deal with under the National Law. |
|                               | To accommodate these co-regulatory arrangements, the Amendment Act also amends the <i>Health Ombudsman Act 2013</i> and makes minor modifications to how certain amendments to the National Law will operate in Queensland. The modifications are made through amendments to the local application provisions of the National Law in part 4 of the <i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (Qld)</i> .  |
|                               | Section 2 of the Amendment Act provides for stated provisions of the Amendment Act to commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation.  |
|                               | The Proclamation will commence provisions of the Amendment Act to strengthen the current protections for notifiers (also known as 'complainants' in Queensland and New South Wales) under the National Law. These provisions will:  |
|                               | <ul> <li>make it an offence to threaten, intimidate, dismiss, refuse to employ, or<br/>subject a person to other detriment or reprisal because they intend to</li> </ul>  |

- or have made a notification or provided assistance to persons performing functions under the National Law;
- make it an offence to enter into a non-disclosure agreement unless the
  agreement clearly sets out, in writing, that it does not limit a person from
  making a notification or providing assistance to regulators and others
  performing functions under the National Law; and
- void non-disclosure agreements to the extent they seek to prevent or limit a notifier from making a notification or providing assistance to persons performing functions under the National Law.

Pursuant to section 15DA of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* the remaining provisions of the Amendment Act will commence automatically on 10 April 2026, unless earlier commenced by a separate proclamation or a regulation is made to extend the period before automatic commencement.

Queensland Health has assessed the Proclamation as machinery in nature as it only has the effect of commencing particular provisions that are not yet in force. Queensland Health has identified that no further regulatory impact analysis is required under *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy*.

## Signed

Dr David Rosengren Director-General

Queensland Health

Date: 22 October 2025

Tim Nicholls MP

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Tui Dalolle

Date: 27 October 2825