

# Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024



#### Queensland

### Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

### Contents

			Page
Part 1	Prelimin	ary	
1	Short title	9	6
2	Commer	ncement	6
Part 2	Amendn	nent of Health Ombudsman Act 2013	
3	Act amer	nded	6
4	Amendm	nent of s 94 (QCAT's jurisdiction)	6
5	Amendm	nent of s 96 (Orders that QCAT may make)	7
6	Amendm	nent of s 97 (Constitution of QCAT)	7
7		nent of s 107 (Decision about registered health practitioned dent)	r other 7
8	Insertion	of new s 125A	8
	125A	Application of division	8
9	Amendm	nent of s 126 (Tribunal to be assisted by assessors)	8
10	Amendm	nent of s 261 (Reprisal and grounds for reprisals)	9
11	Amendm	nent of s 262 (Offence for taking reprisal)	10
12	Insertion	of new s 263A	10
	263A	Non-disclosure agreements	10
13	Insertion	of new pt 21, div 4	12
	Division -	Transitional provision for Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024	
	3201	Application of s 263A	12
14	Amendm	nent of sch 1 (Dictionary)	12
Part 3	Amendn	nent of Health Practitioner Regulation National Law	
15	Law ame	ended	13

$\sim$	nte	nta

16	Amendme	nt of s 5 (Definitions)	13
17	Insertion of	of new s 77A	13
	77A	Restriction on disqualified persons applying for registration	on
			13
18		nt of s 196 (Decision by responsible tribunal about registe ctitioner)	red 14
19	•	nt of s 197 (Decision by responsible tribunal about studen	ıt)
			14
20	Insertion of	of new pt 8, div 12A	14
	Division 12	2A Reinstatement orders	
	198A	Application for reinstatement order	14
	198B	Hearing of application for reinstatement order	15
	198C	Parties to proceedings	15
	198D	Costs	16
	198E	Decision about application for reinstatement order	16
21	Insertion of	of new ss 225A and 225B	17
	225A	Requirement for additional information to be recorded in National and Specialists Registers in certain circumstant	ces
			17
	225B	Additional information to be recorded in National and Specialists Registers for s 225A	19
22	Insertion of	of new ss 237A and 237B	20
	237A	Protection from reprisals for persons making notifications otherwise providing information, documents or assistance	
			20
	237B	Non-disclosure agreements	21
23	Insertion of	of new pt 16	22
	Part 16	Transitional provisions for Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024	
	327	Application of s 77A	23
	328	Application for reinstatement order	23
	329	Application of s 237B	23
Part 4	Amendme	ent of Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act	:
24	Act amend	ded	24
25	Insertion of	of new ss 51A and 51B	24
	51A	Amendment of s 198C (Parties to proceedings)	24

#### Contents

	51B	Omission of s 198D (Costs)	25
26	Insertion	of new s 55A	25
	55A	Amendment of s 225B (Additional information to be reco in National and Specialists Registers for s 225A)	rded 25
27	Insertion	of new s 56AA	27
	56AA	Omission of ss 237A and 237B	27
28	Insertion	of new ss 58 and 59	27
	58	Replacement of s 328 (Application for reinstatement or	ler)
			27
	59	Omission of s 329 (Application of s 237B)	28

### 2024

## **A Bill**

for

An Act to amend the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* and the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* for particular purposes

[s 1]

	The Pa	arlia	ment of Queensland enacts—	1
	Part	1	Preliminary	2
Clause	1	She	ort title	3
			This Act may be cited as the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024.	4 5
Clause	2	Co	mmencement	6
			This Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.	7
	Part	2	Amendment of Health Ombudsman Act 2013	8 9
Clause	3	Act	t amended	10
			This part amends the <i>Health Ombudsman Act 2013</i> .	11
Clause	4	Am	nendment of s 94 (QCAT's jurisdiction)	12
		(1)	Section 94(2), after paragraph (a)—	13
			insert—	14
			(aa) hear an application made by a disqualified person for a reinstatement order under the National Law, section 198A; and	15 16 17
		(2)	Section 94(2)(aa) and (b)—	18
			renumber as section 94(2)(b) and (c).	19
		(3)	Section 94(5), '(2)(b)'—	20
			omit, insert—	21

s	5]

				(2)(c)	1
Clause	5	Am	endment of	s 96 (Orders that QCAT may make)	2
		(1)	Section 96—	_	3
			insert—		4
			` ,	The National Law, part 8, division 12A provides for the orders that QCAT may make after hearing an application made by a disqualified person for a reinstatement order under the National Law, section 198A.	5 6 7 8 9
		(2)	Section 96(2	2A) and (3)—	10
			renumber as	section 96(3) and (4).	11
Clause	6	Am	endment of	s 97 (Constitution of QCAT)	12
			Section 97(2	2)—	13
			insert—		14
				(d) an application made by a disqualified person for a reinstatement order under the National Law, section 198A.	15 16 17
Clause	7			s 107 (Decision about registered health ner than student)	18 19
		(1)	Section 1070	(4), after 'decide to'—	20
			insert—		21
				do 1 or more of the following	22
		(2)	Section 1070	(4)(a)—	23
			omit, insert-	_	24
				(a) disqualify the practitioner from applying for registration as a registered health practitioner;	25 26 27

		(aa	) impose a restriction on the person, either permanently or for a stated period, from	1 2
			applying to QCAT for a reinstatement order;	3
Clause	8 I	nsertion of new s	s 125A	4
		Before section	126—	5
		insert—		6
		125A Appli	cation of division	7
			is division applies in relation to a disciplinary occeeding relating to—	8 9
		(a)	a registered health practitioner; or	10
		(b)	an application made by a disqualified person for a reinstatement order under the National Law, section 198A.	11 12 13
Clause		Amendment of s	126 (Tribunal to be assisted by	14 15
	(	1) Section 126(1), <i>omit</i> .	'relating to a registered health practitioner'—	16 17
	(2	2) Section 126(1)(	b), '2 assessors'—	18
		omit, insert—		19
			a proceeding relating to a registered health actitioner—2 assessors	20 21
	(.	3) Section 126(1)-	_	22
		insert—		23
		(c)	for a proceeding relating to an application made by a disqualified person for a reinstatement order under the National Law, section 198A—2 assessors chosen by the principal registrar from the professional panel of assessors for the profession to which the application relates.	24 25 26 27 28 29 30

C

lause	10	Am	nendment of s 261 (Reprisal and grounds fo	r reprisals)	1
		(1)	Section 261(1), from 'person—'—		2
			omit, insert—		3
			person has taken, or intends to tal action.	ke, protected	4 5
		(2)	Section 261—		6
			insert—		7
			(2A) Also, a person must not—		8
			(a) use threats or intimidation to persuade another person in protected action; or	o attempt to ot to take	9 10 11
			(b) dismiss, or refuse to employ, an because, or in the belief that person has taken, or inten protected action.	at, the other	12 13 14 15
		(3)	Section 261(3) and (4), after 'subsection (1)'—		16
			insert—		17
			or (3)		18
		(4)	Section 261(5), 'subsection (3)'—		19
			omit, insert—		20
			subsection (4)		21
		(5)	Section 261(2A) to (5)—		22
			renumber as section 261(3) to (6).		23
		(6)	Section 261—		24
			insert—		25
			(7) In this section—		26
			protected action means—		27
			(a) making either of the following faith—	ng, in good	28 29
			(i) a health service complaint	·	30

ſs	1	1	1

				(ii) a notification under the National Law, part 8, division 2 or 3; or	1 2
			(b)	giving information, documents or other assistance in the course of an investigation or for another purpose under this Act or the National Law to a person performing functions under this Act or the National Law.	3 4 5 6 7 8
lause	11	Amendment of	f s 2	62 (Offence for taking reprisal)	9
		Section 262	, pen	alty—	10
		omit, insert-	_		11
			Max	kimum penalty—	12
			(a)	for an individual—375 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment; or	13 14
			(b)	for a corporation—750 penalty units.	15
lause	12	Insertion of ne	w s	263A	16
		After sectio	n 26.	3—	17
		insert—			18
		263A No	n-d	isclosure agreements	19
		(1)	-	rovision of a non-disclosure agreement is void ne extent it prevents or limits a person from—	20 21
			(a)	making either of the following, in good faith—	22 23
				(i) a health service complaint;	24
				(ii) a notification under the National Law, part 8, division 2 or 3; or	25 26
			(b)	giving information, documents or other assistance in the course of an investigation or for another purpose under this Act or the National Law to a person performing	27 28 29 30

	functions under this Act or the National Law.	1 2
(2)	A relevant person must not enter into a non-disclosure agreement unless the agreement sets out, clearly and in writing, that the agreement does not limit a person from—	3 4 5 6
	(a) making either of the following, in good faith—	7 8
	(i) a health service complaint;	9
	(ii) a notification under the National Law, part 8, division 2 or 3; or	10 11
	(b) giving information, documents or other assistance in the course of an investigation or for another purpose under this Act or the National Law to a person performing functions under this Act or the National Law.	12 13 14 15 16 17
	Maximum penalty—	18
	(a) for an individual—30 penalty units; or	19
	(b) for a corporation—60 penalty units.	20
(3)	In this section—	21
	non-disclosure agreement means a contract or other agreement that prohibits or restricts the disclosure of information or documents by a person in relation to the health, conduct or performance of a health service provider or former health service provider.	22 23 24 25 26 27
	relevant person means the following—	28
	(a) an employer or former employer of a health service provider or former health service provider;	29 30 31
	(b) a health service provider.	32

Clause	13	Insertion of ne	w pt	21, div 4	1
		Part 21—			2
		insert— <b>Divisio</b>	on 4	Transitional provision for Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024	3 4 5 6 7 8
		320I Ap	plica	tion of s 263A	9
			Sect	ion 263A(1) applies—	10
			(a)	to a non-disclosure agreement, within the meaning of section 263A(3), whether entered into before or after the commencement; and	11 12 13 14
			(b)	in relation to the health, conduct or performance of a health service provider or former health service provider (the <i>relevant issue</i> ), whether the relevant issue occurred before or after the commencement.	15 16 17 18 19
Clause	14	Amendment o	f sch	ı 1 (Dictionary)	20
		Schedule 1-		,,	21
		insert—			22
			<i>disq</i> 5.	ualified person see the National Law, section	23 24
				statement order see the National Law, ion 5.	25 26

[s 15]

	Part	3 Amendment of Health Practitioner Regulation National Law	1 2 3
Clause	15	Law amended	4
		This part amends the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law set out in the schedule to the <i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009</i> .	5 6 7
Clause	16	Amendment of s 5 (Definitions)	8
		Section 5—	9
		insert—	10
		disqualified person means a person—	11
		(a) whose registration has been cancelled by a responsible tribunal; or	12 13
		(b) who has been disqualified by a responsible tribunal from applying for registration, or being registered, in a health profession.	14 15 16
		reinstatement order means an order of a responsible tribunal that a disqualified person is eligible to apply to a National Board for registration under Part 7.	17 18 19 20
Clause	17	Insertion of new s 77A	21
		After section 77—	22
		insert—	23
		77A Restriction on disqualified persons applying for registration	24 25
		Despite any other provision of this Law, a disqualified person cannot apply for registration under this Law unless a responsible tribunal has made a reinstatement order under this Law in	26 27 28 29

[s 18]

		<u> </u>	
		relation to the disqualified person.	1
Clause	18	Amendment of s 196 (Decision by responsible tribunal about registered health practitioner)	2 3
		(1) Section 196(1)(b)(v), 'particular; or'—	4
		omit, insert—	5
		particular.	6
		(2) Section 196(4)(a), 'for a specified period'—	7
		omit.	8
		(3) Section 196(4), after paragraph (a)—	9
		insert—	10
		<ul> <li>(aa) impose a period during which the person may not apply to a responsible tribunal for a reinstatement order;</li> </ul>	11 12 13
Clause	19	Amendment of s 197 (Decision by responsible tribunal about student)	14 15
		Section 197(2), after 'the tribunal may decide'—	16
		insert—	17
		to	18
Clause	20	Insertion of new pt 8, div 12A	19
		Part 8, after division 12—	20
		insert—	21
		Division 12A Reinstatement orders	22
		198A Application for reinstatement order	23
		(1) A disqualified person may apply to a responsible tribunal for a reinstatement order.	24 25

(2)	For the purposes of subsection (1), the appropriate responsible tribunal for an application for a reinstatement order is the responsible tribunal for the participating jurisdiction in which the decision that resulted in the person becoming a disqualified person was made.	1 2 3 4 5 6
198B Ho	earing of application for reinstatement ler	7 8
(1)	At a hearing of an application for a reinstatement order, the responsible tribunal must determine whether, at the time of the hearing, the making of a reinstatement order is appropriate.	9 10 11 12
(2)	Without limiting subsection (1), in determining whether it is appropriate to make the reinstatement order, the tribunal may consider whether the person is—	13 14 15 16
	(a) a fit and proper person to hold registration in the health profession; and	17 18
	(b) able to practise the health profession competently and safely.	19 20
(3)	The responsible tribunal must take into account a complaint or notification made about the person, whether the complaint or notification was made before or after the decision that resulted in the person becoming a disqualified person.	21 22 23 24 25
198C Pa	arties to proceedings	26
	The parties to proceedings relating to the hearing of an application for a reinstatement order are—	27 28
	(a) the disqualified person; and	29
	(b) the National Board that registered the person before the decision that resulted in the person becoming a disqualified person.	30 31 32

198D C	osts	1
	The responsible tribunal may make any order about costs the tribunal considers appropriate for the proceedings.	2 3 4
198E De	ecision about application for reinstatement ler	5 6
(1)	A responsible tribunal that hears an application for a reinstatement order may—	7 8
	(a) make an order dismissing the application; or	9
	(b) grant the reinstatement order.	10
(2)	If the responsible tribunal grants the reinstatement order, the tribunal may decide conditions to which the person's registration must be subject if a National Board decides to re-register the person under this Law.	11 12 13 14 15
(3)	If the responsible tribunal decides to impose a condition on the person's registration, the tribunal must also decide a review period for the condition, commencing from the date of re-registration.	16 17 18 19 20
(4)	Any condition imposed on a person's registration by the National Board under Part 7 applies, but only to the extent it is not inconsistent with conditions imposed or changed by the responsible tribunal.	21 22 23 24 25
(5)	If the responsible tribunal makes an order dismissing the application, the tribunal may impose a period during which the person cannot make another application for a reinstatement order.	26 27 28 29 30
(6)	A person must not make an application for a reinstatement order in contravention of an order by the responsible tribunal under subsection (5).	31 32 33

Clause	21	Insertion of ne	ew ss 225A and 225B	1
		After section	on 225—	2
		insert—		3
		rec	equirement for additional information to be orded in National and Specialists Registers certain circumstances	
		(1)	This section applies if a National Board is satisfied that, in relation to a health practitioner whose name is recorded in a National Register or Specialists Register kept by the Board—	r 8
			(a) a responsible tribunal decided, on or after the participation day for the health profession, that the practitioner behaved in a way that constitutes professional misconduct; and	12 a 13
			(b) a basis for the tribunal's decision was that the practitioner engaged in sexual misconduct, whether occurring in connection with the practice of the practitioner's profession or not.	l 17 n 18
		(2)	For subsection (1)(b), it is immaterial that—	21
			(a) sexual misconduct was not the sole or main basis for the tribunal's decision; or	n 22 23
			(b) if the matter involved other types of conduct—the tribunal did not consider of decide whether the sexual misconduct alone constituted professional misconduct.  Note—	r 25
			See paragraph (b) of the definition of <i>professiona misconduct</i> , which provides that professiona misconduct may include more than one instance of unprofessional conduct in particular circumstances.	29 d 30 e 31
		(3)	The National Board may be satisfied for subsection (1)(b)—	r 34 35

	(a) by necessary inference, taking into account the tribunal's decision and the reasons for the decision; and	1 2 3
	(b) regardless of whether or not the tribunal's reasons for the decision expressly provide that sexual misconduct was a basis for the decision.	4 5 6 7
(4)	The National Board must record the information (the <i>additional information</i> ) mentioned in section 225B in the National Register or Specialists Register.	8 9 10 11
(5)	However, the additional information must not be recorded in the National Register or Specialists Register, or must be removed from the register, if, on appeal, the responsible tribunal's decision regarding professional misconduct is—	12 13 14 15 16
	(a) stayed or overturned; or	17
	(b) modified to the extent it is no longer a decision to which this section applies.	18 19
(6)	Also, if recording the additional information in the National Register or Specialists Register would contravene an order of a court or tribunal, the National Board must not include, or must remove, the additional information to the extent the recording of the information in the register would contravene the order.	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
(7)	Section 226(1) and (2) apply to the requirement to record information under this section.	27 28
(8)	The additional information must remain on the National Register or Specialists Register permanently, unless otherwise authorised to be removed by this Law.	29 30 31 32
(9)	To the extent of any inconsistency between the requirements of this section and section 225B (the <i>relevant sections</i> ) and section 232(2), the relevant sections prevail.	33 34 35 36

	dditional information to be recorded in tional and Specialists Registers for s 225A	1 2
(1)	For section 225A(4), the additional information is—	3
	(a) a statement of the following—	5
	(i) the date of the tribunal's decision;	6
	(ii) the name of the tribunal;	7
	(iii) that the tribunal decided the person behaved in a way that constitutes professional misconduct;	8 9 10
	(iv) that the professional misconduct included sexual misconduct;	11 12
	(v) any sanction imposed by the tribunal that—	13 14
	(A) relates solely to the sexual misconduct; or	15 16
	(B) if the sanction relates to more than one type of conduct—relates to the sexual misconduct and other types of conduct; and	17 18 19 20
	(b) if the tribunal decision has been published—a copy of the decision or a link to the decision.	21 22 23
(2)	For section 225A(4), if the tribunal decided to cancel the person's registration on the grounds of the professional misconduct, or if the health practitioner no longer holds registration, the additional information is also a statement of the following—	24 25 26 27 28 29
	(a) if the tribunal decided to disqualify the person from applying for registration under section 196(4)(a)—	30 31 32
	(i) that the tribunal decided to disqualify the person; and	33 34

	(ii) that the person may apply to the tribunal for a reinstatement order;	1 2
(b)	if the tribunal decided to set a period for which the person may not apply for a reinstatement order—the period for which the person may not apply for the order;	3 4 5 6
(c)	if the tribunal decided to prohibit the person from providing a health service or using a title under section 196(4)(b)—that the tribunal has prohibited the person from providing the service or using the title for a specified time or permanently;	7 8 9 10 11 12
(d)	if the tribunal decided to restrict the person from providing a health service under section 196(4)(c)—	13 14 15
	(i) that the tribunal has restricted the person from providing the service; and	16 17
	(ii) the period of the restriction or that the restriction is permanent.	18 19
Insertion of new s	s 237A and 237B	20
After section 23		21
insert—		22
notifica	tion from reprisals for persons making tions or otherwise providing tion, documents or assistance	23 24 25
(1) A po	erson must not—	26
(a)	use threats or intimidation to attempt to persuade another person not to take protected action; or	27 28 29
(b)	dismiss, or refuse to employ, another person because, or in the belief that, the other person has taken, or intends to take, protected action; or	30 31 32 33

Clause 22

	(c)	subject another person to other detriment or reprisal because, or in the belief that, the other person has taken, or intends to take, protected action.	1 2 3 4
	Max	ximum penalty—	5
	(a)	for an individual—\$60,000; or	6
	(b)	for a body corporate—\$120,000.	7
(2)	In tl	his section—	8
	prot	tected action means—	9
	(a)	making a notification, in good faith, under this Law; or	10 11
	(b)	giving information, documents or other assistance in the course of an investigation or for another purpose under this Law to a person exercising functions under this Law.	12 13 14 15
237B N	on-d	isclosure agreements	16
(1)	_	rovision of a non-disclosure agreement is void ne extent it prevents or limits a person from—	17 18
	(a)	making a notification, in good faith, under this Law; or	19 20
	(b)	giving information, documents or other assistance in the course of an investigation or for another purpose under this Law to a person exercising functions under this Law.	21 22 23 24
(2)	non sets	relevant person must not enter into a -disclosure agreement unless the agreement out, clearly and in writing, that the agreement s not limit a person from—	25 26 27 28
	(a)	making a notification, in good faith, under this Law; or	29 30
	(b)	giving information, documents or other assistance in the course of an investigation	31 32

		or for another purpose under this Law to a person exercising functions under this Law.	1 2
	Max	ximum penalty—	3
	(a)	for an individual—\$5,000; or	4
	(b)	for a body corporate—\$10,000.	5
(3)	In t	his section—	6
	othe disc pers	e-disclosure agreement means a contract or er agreement that prohibits or restricts the elosure of information or documents by a son in relation to the health, conduct or formance of a registered health practitioner or mer registered health practitioner.	7 8 9 10 11 12
	rele	want person means the following—	13
	(a)	an employer or former employer of a registered health practitioner or a person who was registered under this Law;	14 15 16
	(b)	a health service provider whose services are provided by registered health practitioners;	17 18
	(c)	a registered health practitioner.	19
Insertion of ne	ew p	t 16	20
After part 1	5—		21
insert—			22
Part 1	6	Transitional provisions	23
		for Health Practitioner	24
		Regulation National	25
		Law and Other	26
		Legislation	27
		Amendment Act 2024	28

Clause 23

327 Ap	plication of s 77A	1
	Section 77A—	2
	(a) does not apply in relation to an application for registration made before the commencement of this section; but	3 4 5
	(b) applies to a disqualified person who makes an application for registration after the commencement of this section, regardless of when a responsible tribunal made the decision that resulted in the person becoming a disqualified person.	6 7 8 9 10 11
328 Ap	plication for reinstatement order	12
(1)	This section applies if, immediately before the commencement of this section—	13 14
	(a) a person was disqualified from applying for registration as a registered practitioner for a specified period; and	15 16 17
	(b) the period has not yet ended.	18
(2)	The person cannot apply under section 198A for a reinstatement order until the specified period has ended.	19 20 21
329 Apr	plication of s 237B	22
0_0 / (p)	Section 237B(1) applies—	23
	(a) to a non-disclosure agreement, within the meaning of section 237B(3), whether entered into before or after the commencement of this section; and	24 25 26 27
	(b) in relation to the health, conduct or performance of a registered health practitioner or former registered health practitioner (the <i>relevant issue</i> ), whether the	28 29 30 31

[s :	24]
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				issue occurred before or after the cement of this section.	1 2
	Part	Prac	ctition	ent of Health ner Regulation Law Act 2009	3 4 5
Clause	24	Act amended			6
		This part amends the Law Act 2009.	the <i>Heal</i>	th Practitioner Regulation National	7 8
		Editor's note—			9
			-	of the National Law as it applies in h Practitioner Regulation National Law	10 11 12
Clause	25	Insertion of new ss	51 <b>A</b> an	d 51B	13
		After section 51—	_		14
		insert—			15
		51A Amendm	ent of s	198C (Parties to proceedings)	16
		(1) Natio	nal Law	provisions, section 198C(b)—	17
		omit,	insert—		18
		(	(b) eith	er—	19
			(i)	if the person became a disqualified person because of a decision made by the responsible tribunal after hearing a matter referred to the tribunal by a National Board under section 193B—the National Board; or	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
			(ii)	if the person became a disqualified person because of a decision made by the responsible	27 28 29

ſs	261
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			referred director of the	after hear to the tri of proceed health omb lth Ombuds 103—t man.	bunal ings or udsmar <i>man Ac</i>	by the behalf under	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
(2)	Nationa	ıl Law	provision	ns, section 1	98C—		8
	insert—	-					9
	(2) In	this se	ction—				10
				e <b>edings</b> se 2013, schedu		Health	11 12
51B Om	ission (	of s 19	98D (Co:	sts)			13
	Nationa	ıl Law	provisio	ns, section 1	98D—		14
	omit.						15
Insertion of ne	ew s 55/	A					16
After section	on 55—						17
insert—							18
to k	endmei be recor gisters f	ded ir	n Nation	Additional al and Spe	inforn ecialis	nation ts	19 20 21
(1)			y provisi 196(4)(a)	ons, sectio	n 225]	B(2)(a),	22 23
	insert—	-					24
		the <i>He</i> 7(4)(a)		budsman Ac	t 2013,	section	25 26
(2)	Nationa 225B(2		Law —	provision	s,	section	27 28
	omit, in	sert—					29

Clause 26

		(ii)	unless the tribunal decided to impose a permanent restriction on the person from applying to the tribunal for a reinstatement order, that the person may apply to the tribunal for a reinstatement order;	1 2 3 4 5 6
(3)			Law provisions, section 225B(2)(c), etion 196(4)(b)'—	7 8
	inse	rt—		9
			ne <i>Health Ombudsman Act 2013</i> , section (4)(b)	10 11
(4)	Nat	ional	Law provisions, section 225B—	12
	inse	rt—		13
	(3)	deci the prein info tribu the p	o, for section 225A(4), if the tribunal ided to impose a permanent restriction on person from applying to the tribunal for a statement order, the additional rmation is also a statement that the anal imposed a permanent restriction on person from applying to the tribunal for a statement order.	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
	(4)	info	ther, for section 225A(4), the additional rmation is also a statement of the owing—	22 23 24
		(a)	if section 328(2) applies in relation to the person—the specified period during which the person cannot apply under the National Law, section 198A for a reinstatement order;	25 26 27 28 29
		(b)	if section 328(4) applies in relation to the person—that the person cannot apply under the National Law, section 198A for a reinstatement order.	30 31 32 33

s	27]

Clause	27	Insertion	of new s	56A	A	1
		After s	section 56-	_		2
		insert-	_			3
		56 <b>A</b>	AA Omiss	sion	of ss 237A and 237B	4
				ional B—	Law provisions, sections 237A and	5 6
			omi	t.		7
Clause	28	Insertion (	of new s	s 58	and 59	8
		After s	section 57-	_		9
		insert-	_			10
		58			nt of s 328 (Application for ent order)	11 12
			Nati	ional	Law provisions, section 328—	13
			omi	t, ins	ert—	14
			328 App	olica	tion for reinstatement order	15
			(1)		section (2) applies if, immediately before commencement—	16 17
				(a)	a person was disqualified, under the <i>Health Ombudsman Act 2013</i> or the National Law, from applying for registration as a registered practitioner for a specified period; and	18 19 20 21 22
				(b)	the period had not yet ended.	23
			(2)	Lav	e person cannot apply under the National v, section 198A for a reinstatement order il the specified period has ended.	24 25 26
			(3)	the disc	osection (4) applies if, immediately before commencement, a person was qualified, under the <i>Health Ombudsman</i> 2013, from applying for registration as a distered practitioner indefinitely.	27 28 29 30 31

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[s 28]

	(4) The person cannot apply under the National Law, section 198A for a reinstatement order.	1 2			
59	Omission of s 329 (Application of s 237B)				
	National Law provisions, section 329—	4			
	omit.	5			