

Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Act 2017

Explanatory notes for SL 2017 No. 149

made under the

Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Act 2017

General Outline

Short title

Proclamation for the *Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Act 2017*

Authorising law

Section 2 of the *Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Act 2017*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objective of the Proclamation is to commence the *Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Act 2017* (the Amendment Act), which strengthens the existing regulatory framework under the *Public Health Act 2005* for preventing and minimising infection risks at health care facilities. The Amendment Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 May 2017 and received Royal Assent on 5 June 2017.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Proclamation provides for the Amendment Act to commence on 1 September 2017.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Proclamation is consistent with the policy objectives of the Amendment Act.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

No inconsistencies with the policy objectives of other legislation have been identified.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

The Proclamation is the only effective means of commencing the Amendment Act, other than by allowing automatic commencement under section 15DA of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The costs associated with implementing the provisions being commenced will be met from within the existing Health portfolio budget allocation.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Proclamation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles, as set out in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Consultation

There has been no consultation on the Proclamation, as it is machinery in nature. Communication with peak industry bodies representing health care facilities on their members' obligations under the infection control framework, as amended by the Amendment Act, is ongoing.

The proclamation was assessed by Queensland Health, in accordance with *The Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation*, as being excluded from regulatory impact assessment. Therefore, consultation with the Office of Best Practice Regulation, Queensland Productivity Commission, was not required.