



New South Wales

Paediatric Patient Oversight (Vanessa's Law) Bill 2008

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to impose a duty on the governing body of a major public hospital to ensure that a paediatrician oversees the medical management of any person under the age of 18 who is admitted as a patient in an adult ward of the hospital within 24 hours of the person's admission.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Clause 3 imposes the duty described in the Overview above.

Clause 4 contains definitions for the purposes of the proposed Act, including a list of the major public hospitals in respect of which the duty imposed by the proposed Act will apply.

Introduced by Mrs J G Skinner, MP

First print



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Contents

	Page
1 Name of Act	2
2 Commencement	2
3 Oversight by paediatricians of child patients admitted to adult wards of major public hospitals	2
4 Interpretation provisions	2



New South Wales

Paediatric Patient Oversight (Vanessa's Law) Bill 2008

No. , 2008

A Bill for

An Act to ensure that children who are admitted to adult wards in major hospitals are under the care and supervision of a paediatrician.

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts: 1

1 Name of Act 2

This Act is the *Paediatric Patient Oversight (Vanessa's Law) Act 2008*. 3

2 Commencement 4

This Act commences on the date of assent to this Act. 5

3 Oversight by paediatricians of child patients admitted to adult wards of major public hospitals 6
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If a child is admitted as a patient in an adult ward of a major public hospital, it is the duty of the governing body of the hospital to ensure that the medical management of the child is assessed and approved by a paediatrician within 24 hours of the child being admitted. 8
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4 Interpretation provisions 12

In this Act: 13

adult ward means a ward in which adult patients are accommodated. 14

child means a person under the age of 18 years. 15

governing body of a major public hospital means: 16

(a) in the case of a public hospital that is controlled by a public health organisation within the meaning of the *Health Services Act 1997*—the public health organisation, or 17
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(b) in the case of a public hospital within the meaning of the *Health Services Act 1997* that is controlled by the Crown (including the Minister or the Health Administration Corporation)—the Crown. 20
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major public hospital means a public hospital listed in the Table at the end of this section. 23
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ward means any room in a hospital (other than a specialist children's hospital) in which patients are accommodated, and includes a general mixed, medical or surgical ward, but does not include an intensive care unit, high dependency unit or emergency department. 25
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Teaching or referral hospitals

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital

Concord Hospital

Gosford Hospital

John Hunter Hospital

Liverpool Hospital

Teaching or referral hospitals

Nepean Hospital

Prince of Wales Hospital

Royal North Shore Hospital

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

St George Hospital

St Vincent's Hospital

Westmead Hospital

Wollongong Hospital

Rural Base hospitals

Albury Hospital

Coffs Harbour Hospital

Dubbo Hospital

Lismore Hospital

Maitland Hospital

Manning Hospital

Orange Hospital

Port Macquarie Hospital

Shoalhaven Hospital

Tamworth Hospital

Tweed Heads Hospital

Wagga Wagga Hospital
