

HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017*Second Reading*

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research)
(16:30): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Health Practitioner Regulation Amendment Bill 2017 was introduced in the Legislative Council on 11 October 2017, and is in the same form. The second reading speech appears at pages 23 to 25 in the proof *Hansard* for that day. I rely substantially on that speech but will make a few brief additional comments. The bill makes a number of consequential changes to the Health Practitioner Regulation (Adoption of Law) Act 2009, otherwise known as the Adoption Act, and various other Acts. The changes follow on from recent changes to the schedule to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 of Queensland relating to the registration of health practitioners.

The registration of health practitioners is achieved via the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme [NRAS]. NRAS is implemented in New South Wales via New South Wales adopting the Queensland schedule as a law of New South Wales, subject to various modifications set out in the Adoption Act. I particularly draw the attention of the House to the fact that this is very significant legislation because it now facilitates, amongst other things, the registration of paramedics. It will bring paramedics in line with other registered health professionals in New South Wales, such as nurses and midwives, medical practitioners, dentists and pharmacists. Paramedic registration is due to commence in about September 2018. I am sure all members of this place have the highest regard for our paramedics. It is particularly appropriate that we acknowledge their significance to the community through acknowledging their registration through this process.

In short, the changes to the Queensland schedule that will automatically apply in New South Wales are as follows: the inclusion of paramedics in NRAS; enabling regulations to be made to consolidate one or more national boards, with consultation required before any consolidation can occur. I also note that there is no current plan to consolidate any of the boards; recognising nursing and midwifery as two separate professions, both regulated by the one board; allowing a board to obtain additional information about a practitioner's practice information; requiring the boards to keep a register of prohibition orders; and facilitating the inclusion of a new section 127A which allows a New South Wales review body to take over the review of an interstate practitioner who is subject to conditions imposed by the board, if the practitioner moves to New South Wales. Together with the second reading speech that appears on 23 to 25 in the *Hansard* proof for 11 October, and these brief comments, I commend the bill to the House.