

FIRST PRINT

**MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION)
AMENDMENT BILL 1991**

NEW SOUTH WALES



EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Explanatory Note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament)

The object of this Bill is to amend the Medical Practitioners Act 1938 so as to allow a doctor to decline to provide any medical treatment or service in respect of which the doctor has a conscientious objection on the grounds of moral or religious belief.

Clause 1 specifies the short title of the proposed Act.

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

Clause 3 makes the amendment referred to above.

FIRST PRINT

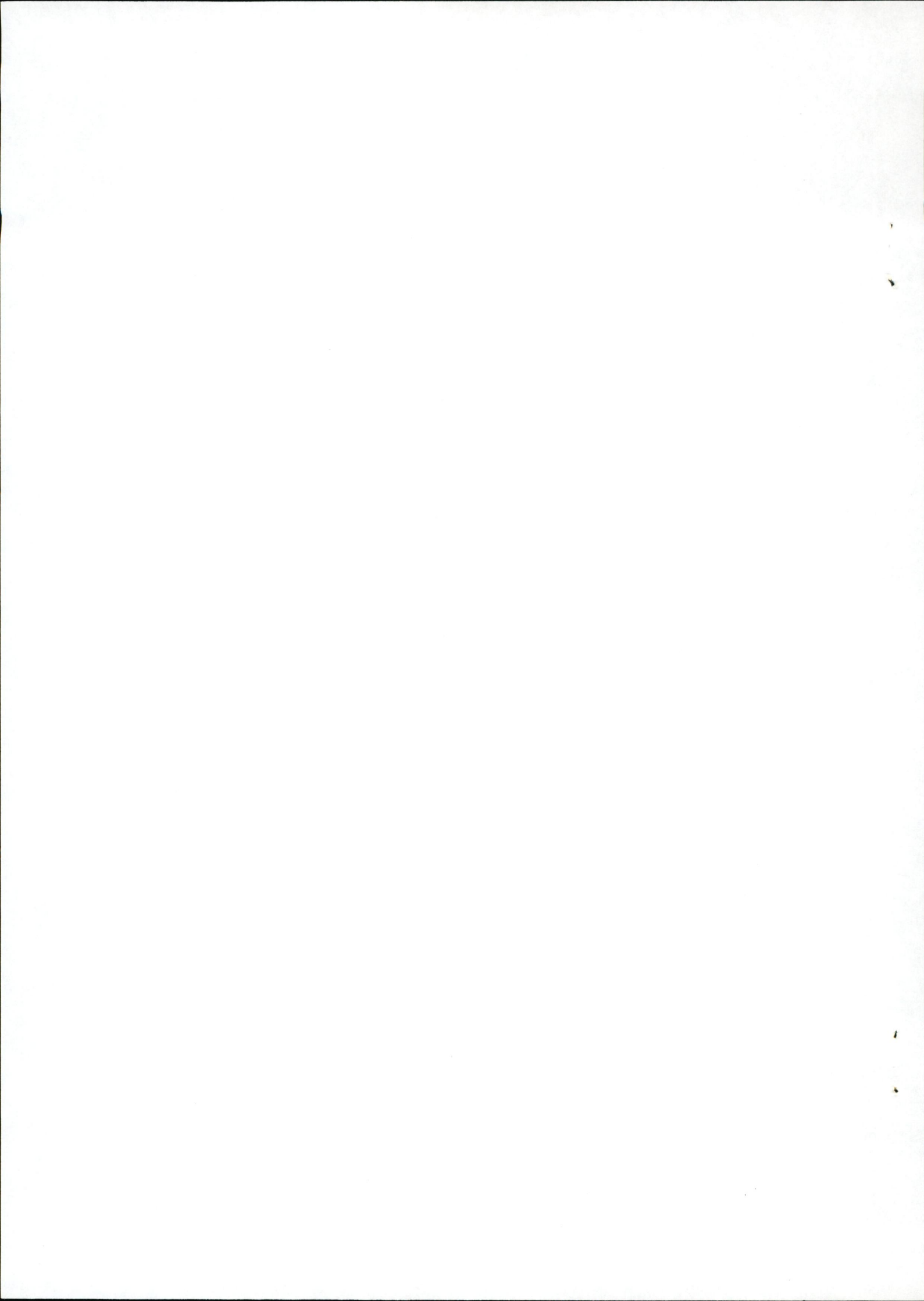
**MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION)
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**MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION)
AMENDMENT BILL 1991**

NEW SOUTH WALES



No. , 1991

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend the Medical Practitioners Act 1938 to provide for conscientious objection by medical practitioners on the grounds of moral or religious beliefs.

Medical Practitioners (Conscientious Objection) Amendment 1991

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Medical Practitioners (Conscientious Objection) Amendment Act 1991.

Commencement

2. This Act commences on the date of assent.

Amendment of Medical Practitioners Act 1938 No. 37

3. The Medical Practitioners Act 1938 is amended by inserting before section 39 the following section:

Conscientious objection

38A. (1) A registered medical practitioner has no duty arising under contract or otherwise to provide any treatment or service relating to the practice of medicine in respect of which the medical practitioner has a conscientious objection on the grounds of moral or religious belief.

(2) In any legal or other proceedings to which the medical practitioner is a party, a statement by the medical practitioner that he or she has such a conscientious objection is proof, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, of the conscientious objection.
