#### Western Australia

# Health and Disability Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2009

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|     | Act 2000 amended                                |    | 31 |
| 59. | Medical Practitioners Act 2008 amended          |    | 31 |
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#### Western Australia

#### **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

(As amended—proforma amendments)

# Health and Disability Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2009

#### A Bill for

An Act to amend —

- the Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995; and
- the Disability Services Act 1993; and
- various other Acts, and for related purposes.

The Parliament of Western Australia enacts as follows:

| Part 1 | — Preliminary | matters |
|--------|---------------|---------|
|--------|---------------|---------|

| 1      |    | Part 1 — Preliminary matters   |
|--------|----|--|
| 2      | 1. | Short title  |
| 3<br>4 |    | This is the Health and Disability Services Legislation Amendment Act 2009. |
| 5      | 2. | Commencement   |
| 6      |    | This Act comes into operation as follows —                                 |
| 7      |    | (a) Part 1 — on the day on which this Act receives the                     |
| 8      |    | Royal Assent;  |
| 9      |    | (b) the rest of the Act — on a day fixed by proclamation,                  |
| 10     |    | and different days may be fixed for different provisions.                  |

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|   |   |

| 1                         |    | Part 2          | Act 1995 amended  |
|---------------------------|----|-----------------|---|
| 3                         | 3. | Ac              | t amended   |
| 4<br>5                    |    |                 | is Part amends the <i>Health Services (Conciliation and Review</i> 1995.  |
| 6                         | 4. | Lo              | ng title replaced   |
| 7<br>8                    |    | De              | lete the long title and insert:   |
| 9<br>10<br>11<br>12<br>13 |    | compl<br>disabi | et to establish a readily accessible agency to which laints may be made about the provision of health and lity services, to establish a means of having such laints dealt with in confidence, and for related eses. |
| 15                        | 5. | Sec             | ction 1 amended   |
| 16<br>17<br>18            |    |                 | section 1 delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) to 1995." and insert:   |
| 19<br>20                  |    | Не              | alth and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995.   |
| 21                        | 6. | Sec             | ction 3A inserted   |
| 22<br>23                  |    | Aft             | ter section 2 insert:   |
| 24<br>25                  |    | 3A.             | Act to be read with <i>Disability Services Act 1993</i> Part 6  |
| 26<br>27<br>28            |    |                 | This Act is to be read with the <i>Disability Services Act 1993</i> Part 6.   |

| 1                    | 7. | Section 3 amended  |
|----------------------|----|--|
| 2                    |    | In section 3(1) delete the definition of <i>Office</i> and insert:   |
| 4<br>5<br>6          |    | <b>Office</b> means the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office continued by section 6(1);  |
| 7                    | 8. | Section 6 amended  |
| 8<br>9               |    | Delete section 6(1) and insert:  |
| 10<br>11<br>12<br>13 |    | (1) The body called the "Office of Health Review", established previously under this Act, continues under the name "Health and Disability Services Complaints Office". |
| 15                   | 9. | Section 10 amended   |
| 16                   |    | In section 10(1):  |
| 17<br>18             |    | (a) delete "Director are —" and insert:  |
| 19<br>20             |    | Director are as follows —  |
| 21<br>22             |    | (b) delete paragraph (a) and insert:   |
| 23<br>24<br>25       |    | (a) to deal with complaints in accordance with Part 3;   |
| 26<br>27             |    | (c) in paragraph (b) before "to review" insert:  |
| 28<br>29<br>30       |    | in collaboration with groups of providers or groups of users or both,  |

Part 2

| 1                    |     | (d) in paragraph (f) delete "time; and" and insert:  |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| 3                    |     | time;  |
| 5<br>6               |     | (e) in paragraph (g)(ii) delete "complaints." and insert:  |
| 7<br>8               |     | complaints; and  |
| 9<br>10              |     | (f) after paragraph (g)(ii) insert:  |
| 11<br>12             |     | (iii) advice about removing or minimising the causes of complaints;  |
| 13<br>14<br>15       |     | (h) any other function conferred on the Director by this Act or another written law.   |
| 16                   | 10. | Section 13 amended   |
| 17<br>18<br>19       | (1) | In section 13(1) delete "Office of Health Review Account" and insert:  |
| 20<br>21             |     | Health and Disability Services Complaints Office Account   |
| 22<br>23             | (2) | After section 13(1) insert:  |
| 24<br>25<br>26<br>27 |     | (2) The Health and Disability Services Complaints Office Account is a continuation of the account formerly called the Office of Health Review Account. |

| 1                | 11. | Section 20 amended  |
|------------------|-----|---|
| 2                |     | In section 20(2):   |
| 3<br>4           |     | (a) delete "if, in the Director's opinion—" and insert:   |
| 5<br>6           |     | if—   |
| 7<br>8           |     | (b) delete paragraph (a) and "and" after it and insert:   |
| 9                |     | (a) the user —  |
| 0                |     | (i) has died; or  |
| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 |     | (ii) in the Director's opinion, is unable to complain to the Director and unable to choose a person to complain on the user's behalf; |
| 5                |     | and   |
| 7                | 12. | Section 22 amended  |
| 8                |     | In section 22 delete "Director that," and insert:   |
| 20<br>21         |     | Director that the user has died or,   |
| 22               | 13. | Section 24 amended  |
| 23<br>24         |     | In section 24 delete "12 months" and insert:  |
| 25<br>26         |     | 24 months   |
| 27               | 14. | Section 25 amended  |
| 28               |     | In section 25(1):   |
| 29               |     | (a) in paragraph (a) delete "public";   |

| 1 2               |     | (b) in paragraph (b) delete "user;" and insert:  |
|-------------------|-----|--|
| 3<br>4<br>5       |     | user, whether the service was requested by the user or a third party;  |
| 6                 | 15. | Section 30 amended   |
| 7<br>8<br>9<br>10 |     | In section 30 delete "The Director must not refer a complaint for conciliation or investigate a complaint unless the Director is satisfied that —" and insert: |
| 11<br>12<br>13    |     | The Director may reject a complaint if the Director is not satisfied that —  |
| 14                | 16. | Section 34 amended   |
| 15<br>16          | (1) | Delete section 34(1)(a), (b) and (c) and insert:   |
| 17                |     | (a) to accept it; or   |
| 18                |     | (b) to reject it under section 24, 26 or 30; or  |
| 19<br>20          |     | (c) to refer it under section 28, 31 or 32,  |
| 21<br>22          | (2) | Delete section 34(4) and insert:   |
| 23<br>24          |     | (4) If the Director decides to accept a complaint in whole or in part, the Director must then —  |
| 25<br>26          |     | (a) attempt to settle it in accordance with Division 3A; or  |
| 27<br>28<br>29    |     | (b) refer it for conciliation under Division 3 if the Director is of the opinion it is suitable to be dealt with under that Division; or                       |
|                   |     |  |

| 1       |     | (c) investigate it if the Director is of the opinion                       |
|---------|-----|--|
| 2       |     | that —   |
| 3<br>4  |     | (i) it is not suitable to be dealt with under either Division 3A or 3; and |
| 5       |     | (ii) an investigation is warranted, taking                                 |
| 6       |     | into account the likely costs and benefits                                 |
| 7       |     | of the investigation.  |
| 8       |     | Ç  |
| 9<br>10 | (3) | In section 34(5) delete "referring it for conciliation" and insert:        |
| 11      |     | dealing with it  |
| 12      |     |  |
| 13      | (4) | Delete section 34(6) and insert:   |
| 14      | (1) | Detecto section 5 1(0) and insert.   |
| 4-5     |     | (6) If the Director decides  |
| 15      |     | (6) If the Director decides —  |
| 16      |     | (a) to reject a complaint; or  |
| 17      |     | (b) that a complaint is not suitable to be dealt with                      |
| 18      |     | under either Division 3A or 3 and does not                                 |
| 19      |     | warrant investigating,   |
| 20      |     | the Director must, in writing, advise the person who                       |
| 21      |     | made the complaint of the decision and that the                            |
| 22      |     | Director will take no further action on the complaint.                     |
| 23      |     | (7) While performing functions under this section in                       |
| 24      |     | relation to a complaint, the Director must not try to                      |
| 25      |     | settle the complaint.  |
| 26      |     |  |
| 27      | 17. | Section 35 amended   |
| 28      | (1) | In section 35(1):  |
| 29      |     | (a) in paragraph (a) delete "provider;" and insert:                        |
| 30      |     |  |
| 31      |     | provider; and  |
|         |     |  |

| 1 2                   | (      | (b) after                  | paragraph (a) insert:  |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------|--|
| 3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7 |        | (ba)                       | may give the provider a written notice requiring the provider to give the Director a written response to the complaint in accordance with section 36A; and                         |
| 8<br>9                | (2) Ai | fter section               | a 35(3) insert:  |
| 10<br>11<br>12<br>13  | (4)    | section                    | t to subsection (2), a notice given under this a must include a copy or the details of the aint concerned.   |
| 14                    | 18. Se | ection 36A                 | inserted   |
| 15<br>16              | At     | the end of                 | f Part 3 Division 2 insert:  |
| 17                    | 36A.   | Respon                     | nse by provider  |
| 18<br>19<br>20        | (1)    | may gi                     | rider who is given a notice under section 35(1)(a) we the Director a written response to the aint concerned.   |
| 21<br>22<br>23        | (2)    | section                    | rider who is given a notice under a 35(1)(ba) must give the Director a written se to the complaint concerned.  |
| 24                    | (3)    | ) Anvre                    | esponse given under subsection (1) or (2) must be  |
| 25<br>26<br>27<br>28  | (3)    | given t<br>period<br>which | to the Director within 28 days, or any longer allowed under subsection (4), after the date on the provider receives a notice given under a 35(1)(a) or (ba), as the case requires. |

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| 1 2                              |     | (5)   | If a provider does not comply with subsection (2), the Director may nevertheless deal with the complaint   |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|--|
| 3                                |     |       | under this Part.   |
| 4<br>5                           |     | (6)   | A provider who does not comply with subsection (2) does not commit an offence.   |
| 6<br>7<br>8<br>9                 |     | (7)   | The Director must include in the Office's annual report required by the <i>Financial Management Act 2006</i> Part 5 the details of any breach of subsection (2) that, in the Director's opinion, was committed without a reasonable excuse.            |
| 11                               |     | 36BA. | Protection of provider's statements  |
| 12                               |     | (1)   | Evidence of anything said in a response given by a   |
| 13<br>14                         |     |       | provider under section 36A is not admissible in proceedings before a court or tribunal.  |
| 15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20 |     | (2)   | Despite the <i>Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971</i> section 20(3), evidence referred to in subsection (1) may be disclosed to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations for the purposes of an investigation under that Act. |
| 21                               | 19. | Part  | 3 Division 3A inserted   |
| 22<br>23                         |     | Befo  | ore Part 3 Division 3 insert:  |
| 24                               |     |       | Division 3A — Negotiated settlement  |
| 25                               |     | 36B.  | Resolving complaints by negotiation  |
| 26<br>27<br>28<br>29<br>30       |     | (1)   | Having accepted a complaint and complied with section 35, the Director may, by negotiating with the person who made the complaint and the provider, attempt to bring about a settlement of the complaint that is acceptable to the parties to it.      |

| 1 2                              | (2)  | For the purposes of subsection (1) the Director may make any inquiries the Director considers appropriate.  |
|----------------------------------|------|---|
| 3<br>4<br>5<br>6                 | (3)  | If within 56 days, or any longer period allowed under subsection (4), after the date of complying with section 35 the complaint has not been settled under subsection (1), the Director must —  |
| 7<br>8<br>9                      |      | (a) refer it for conciliation under Division 3 if the Director is of the opinion it is suitable to be dealt with under that Division; or  |
| 10<br>11                         |      | (b) investigate it if the Director is of the opinion that —   |
| 12<br>13                         |      | (i) it is not suitable to be dealt with under Division 3; and   |
| 14<br>15<br>16                   |      | <ul><li>(ii) an investigation is warranted, taking<br/>into account the likely costs and benefits<br/>of the investigation.</li></ul>   |
| 17<br>18<br>19                   | (4)  | The Director may extend that 56 day period if it is for<br>the benefit of the person who made the complaint to do<br>so.  |
| 20<br>21<br>22<br>23<br>24<br>25 | (5)  | If the Director decides a complaint is not suitable to be dealt with under Division 3 and does not warrant investigating, the Director must, in writing, advise the person who made the complaint of the decision and that the Director will take no further action on the complaint. |
| 26                               | 36C. | Protection of statements made   |
| 27<br>28<br>29                   | (1)  | Evidence of anything said or admitted during any negotiation conducted under section 36B(1) is not admissible in proceedings before a court or tribunal.  |
| 30<br>31<br>32                   | (2)  | Despite the <i>Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971</i> section 20(3), evidence referred to in subsection (1) may be disclosed to the Parliamentary Commissioner   |
|                                  |      |   |

| 1<br>2<br>3    |     | for Administrative Investigations for the purposes of an investigation under that Act. |
|----------------|-----|--|
| 4              | 20. | Section 41 amended   |
| 5<br>6<br>7    |     | In section 41(1) delete "through the conciliation process or not." and insert:         |
| 8<br>9         |     | or not with the help of the Office.  |
| 10             | 21. | Section 44 amended   |
| 11             | (1) | Delete section 44(1).  |
| 12<br>13<br>14 | (2) | In section 44(2) delete "where subsection (1) applies," and insert:                    |
| 15<br>16       |     | if it is of a complaint,   |
| 17             | 22. | Section 48 amended   |
| 18<br>19       | (1) | In section 48(1) delete "under section 44 or" and insert:                              |
| 20<br>21       |     | of a complaint or under section  |
| 22<br>23       | (2) | In section 48(2) delete "under section 44 or" and insert:                              |
| 24<br>25       |     | of a complaint or under section  |

| s. | 23 |  |
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|    |    |  |

| 1                                      | 23. | Sect  | ion 50 amended  |
|--|-----|-------|---|
| 2                                      |     | Afte  | r section 50(1) insert:   |
| 4<br>5                                 |     | (2A)  | Before making a decision under subsection (1), the Director must —  |
| 6                                      |     |       | (a) consult the provider; and   |
| 7<br>8<br>9<br>10                      |     |       | (b) if any action that the Director considers ought to be taken to remedy the matter is likely to have an impact on other providers, consult a group of those providers.  |
| 12                                     | 24. | Sect  | ion 52A inserted  |
| 13<br>14                               |     | At th | ne end of Part 3 Division 4 insert:   |
| 15<br>16                               |     | 52A.  | Report to Parliament where report not made or remedial action not taken   |
| 17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21<br>22<br>23 |     | (1)   | If a notice given under section 50 includes any action that the Director considers ought to be taken by the provider to remedy the matter and the provider does not report in accordance with section 51, the Director must give the Minister a copy of the notice and a written report about the refusal or failure by the provider to so report.  |
| 24<br>25<br>26<br>27<br>28<br>29       |     | (2)   | If a notice given under section 50 includes any action that the Director considers ought to be taken by the provider to remedy the matter and the provider does not take the action within such time as in the Director's opinion is reasonable, the Director must give the Minister a copy of the notice and a written report about the refusal or failure by the provider to take the action. |

| s. | 25 |
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| 1<br>2<br>3           |     | (3) After receiving the notice and a report under subsection (1) or (2) the Minister may lay both before each House of Parliament.   |
|-----------------------|-----|--|
| 4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>8 |     | (4) The Director is not to include the complainant's name in the material given to the Minister under subsection (1) or (2) unless authorised to do so by the complainant. |
| 9                     | 25. | Section 56 amended   |
| 10                    |     | In section 56(1):  |
| 11<br>12              |     | (a) in paragraph (b) delete "functions." and insert:   |
| 13<br>14              |     | functions; or  |
| 15<br>16              |     | (b) after paragraph (b) insert:  |
| 17<br>18<br>19        |     | (c) arising from information given to the Director under section 75.   |
| 20                    | 26. | Section 59 amended   |
| 21<br>22              |     | In section 59 delete "under section 44," and insert:   |
| 23<br>24              |     | of a complaint or under section  |
| 25                    | 27. | Section 61 amended   |
| 26<br>27              |     | In section 61 delete "under section 44," and insert:   |
| 28<br>29              |     | of a complaint or under section  |

| 1           | 28. | Sect       | ion 64 amended   |
|-------------|-----|------------|--|
| 2           |     | In se      | ection 64(1) delete "under section 44," and insert:  |
| 4<br>5      |     | of a       | complaint or under section   |
| 6           | 29. | Sect       | ion 79 replaced  |
| 7<br>8      |     | Dele       | ete section 79 and insert:   |
| 9           |     | <b>79.</b> | Review of Act  |
| 0 1 2 3     |     | (1)        | The Minister must carry out a review of, and prepare a report on, the operation and effectiveness of —  (a) this Act; and  (b) the <i>Disability Services Act 1993</i> Part 6, |
| 4<br>5<br>6 |     |            | as soon as practicable after 5 years after the date on which the <i>Health and Disability Services Legislation Amendment Act 2009</i> section 29 comes into operation.         |
| 7<br>8<br>9 |     | (2)        | The Minister must cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament as soon as practicable after it is prepared.   |
| 21          | 30. | Sect       | ion 80 replaced  |
| 22<br>23    |     | Dele       | ete section 80 and insert:   |

# 80. Transitional provisions

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(1) A reference in any written law or other document to the Director of the Office of Health Review is to be taken to be a reference to the Director.

1 (2) A reference in any written law or other document to the Office of Health Review is to be taken to be a reference to the Office.

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| 2                    | 31. | Act amended   |
|----------------------|-----|---|
| 3                    |     | This Part amend the Disability Services Act 1993.   |
| 4                    | 32. | Section 3 amended   |
| 5<br>6               |     | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |
| 7<br>8<br>9<br>10    |     | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |
| 12                   | 33. | Section 3A amended  |
| 13<br>14             |     | In section 3A(3)(b) delete "Child Welfare Act 1947" and insert:   |
| 15<br>16             |     | Children and Community Services Act 2004  |
| 17                   | 34. | Section 30 amended  |
| 18<br>19<br>20       | (1) | In section 30 delete the definitions of:  member of the staff  OHR  |
| 21<br>22             | (2) | In section 30 insert in alphabetical order:   |
| 23<br>24<br>25<br>26 |     | Complaints Office means the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office continued by section 6(1) of the Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995;         |
|                      |     |   |

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|----|----|
|    | 35 |

| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4     |     |       | member of the staff has the meaning given to the by section 3(1) of the Health and Disability Serv (Complaints) Act 1995;      |         |
|----------------------|-----|-------|--|---------|
| 5                    | 35. | Secti | on 30AA inserted   |         |
| 6<br>7               |     | After | section 30 insert:   |         |
| 8<br>9               |     | 30AA. | This Part to be read with <i>Health and Disabilit</i><br>Services (Complaints) Act 1995  | v       |
| 10<br>11<br>12       |     |       | This Part is to be read with the <i>Health and Disab</i><br>Services (Complaints) Act 1995.                                    | oility  |
| 13                   | 36. | Secti | on 30A amended   |         |
| 14                   |     | In se | tion 30A(1):   |         |
| 15<br>16             |     | (a)   | delete "Part are —" and insert:  |         |
| 17<br>18             |     |       | Part are as follows —  |         |
| 19<br>20             |     | (b)   | delete paragraph (a) and insert:   |         |
| 21<br>22<br>23       |     |       | (a) to deal with complaints in accordance with Part;   | th this |
| 24<br>25             |     | (c)   | in paragraph (b) before "to review" insert:  |         |
| 26<br>27<br>28<br>29 |     |       | in collaboration with groups of service<br>providers or groups of persons to whom<br>disability services are provided or both, |         |

| 1        |     | (d) in paragraph (f) delete "OHR" and insert:                         |
|----------|-----|---|
| 2        |     | Complaints Office   |
| 4        |     |   |
| 5        |     | (e) in paragraph (f) delete "time; and" and insert:                   |
| 6        |     |   |
| 7        |     | time;   |
| 8        |     |   |
| 9        |     | (f) in paragraph (g)(ii) delete "complaints." and insert:             |
| 10       |     |   |
| 11       |     | complaints; and   |
| 12       |     |   |
| 13       |     | (g) after paragraph (g)(ii) insert:                                   |
| 14       |     |   |
| 15       |     | (iii) advice about removing or minimising                             |
| 16<br>17 |     | the causes of complaints.   |
| 11       |     |   |
| 18       | 37. | Section 31 amended  |
| 19       |     | In section 31(1) delete "through conciliation provided for under      |
| 20       |     | this Part," and insert:   |
| 21       |     |   |
| 22       |     | with the help of the Complaints Office,                               |
| 23       |     |   |
| 24       | 38. | Section 32 amended  |
| 25       |     | In section 32(2):   |
| 26       |     | (a) in paragraph (b)(ii) delete "complaint." and insert:              |
| 27       |     | () r 25-24-1 (-)() 42-2-2- 40-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14-14- |
| 28       |     | complaint;  |
| 29       |     | · ·   |

| 1 2      |     | (b)     | after   | paragr   | aph (b) insert:  |
|----------|-----|---------|---------|----------|--|
| 3        |     |         |         | or       |  |
| 4        |     |         | (c)     |          | on not chosen by the person with a                                 |
| 5        |     |         | (0)     |          | lity if —  |
| 6<br>7   |     |         |         | (i)      | the person with a disability has died; and                         |
| 8        |     |         |         | (ii)     | in the Director's opinion, the                                     |
| 9        |     |         |         | (11)     | prospective advocate is a person who                               |
| 10       |     |         |         |          | has a sufficient interest in the subject                           |
| 11       |     |         |         |          | matter of the complaint.   |
| 12       |     |         |         |          |  |
| 13       | 39. | Sectio  | n 33 a  | amende   | ed   |
| 14       | (1) | In sect | tion 33 | 3(2):    |  |
| 15       |     | (a)     | in pa   | ıragrapl | h (b) delete "complainant;" and insert:                            |
| 16       |     |         |         |          |  |
| 17       |     |         |         | comp     | lainant, whether the service was requested                         |
| 18       |     |         |         | by the   | e complainant or a third party; or                                 |
| 19       |     |         |         |          |  |
| 20       |     | (b)     | in pa   | ıragrapl | h (f) delete "Charter," and insert:                                |
| 21       |     |         |         |          |  |
| 22       |     |         | Char    | ter; or  |  |
| 23       |     |         |         |          |  |
| 24       |     | (c)     | after   | paragr   | aph (f) insert:  |
| 25       |     |         |         |          |  |
| 26       |     |         | (g)     |          | pect of a complaint about a matter                                 |
| 27       |     |         |         |          | oned in paragraphs (a) to (e) made to the                          |
| 28<br>29 |     |         |         | -        | der or Commission by a person with a lity, acted unreasonably by — |
|          |     |         |         |          | 1                            |
| 30       |     |         |         | (i)      | not properly investigating the complaint                           |
| 30<br>31 |     |         |         | (1)      | or causing it to be properly investigated;                         |
|          |     |         |         | (1)      |  |

| 1 2            |     | (ii) not taking, or causing to be taken, proper action on the complaint;                |
|----------------|-----|---|
| 3              |     | or  |
| 4<br>5         |     | (h) acted unreasonably by charging the complainant an excessive fee; or                 |
| 6<br>7         |     | (i) acted unreasonably with respect to a fee,   |
| 8<br>9         |     | (d) after paragraphs (a), (c), (d) and (e) insert:                                      |
| 10<br>11       |     | or  |
| 12             | (2) | Delete section 33(3) and the Penalty provision after it.                                |
| 13             | 40. | Section 33A amended   |
| 14<br>15<br>16 |     | In section 33A delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995." and insert: |
| 17<br>18       |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995.                                   |
| 19             | 41. | Section 36 amended  |
| 20             |     | In section 36(a) delete "or investigating".   |
| 21             | 42. | Section 37 amended  |
| 22             | (1) | Delete section 37(1)(a) and (b) and insert:   |
| 23<br>24       |     | (a) to accept it; or  |
| 25<br>26       |     | (b) to reject, defer or refer it under section 38,                                      |

| 1                                | (2) | After | section                       | 37(3) i                                     | nsert:   |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7       |     | (4A)  | Director<br>requiring         | or may g<br>ng the r<br>se to the           | ction (1) a complaint is accepted, the give the respondent a written notice espondent to give the Director a written e complaint in accordance with  |
| 8<br>9                           |     | (4B)  |                               |   | ction (1) a complaint is accepted, the then —  |
| 10<br>11                         |     |       | (a)                           | -   | t to settle it in accordance with a 39B; or  |
| 12<br>13<br>14                   |     |       | (b)                           | Directo                                     | for conciliation under section 39 if the or is of the opinion it is suitable to be with under that section; or   |
| 15<br>16                         |     |       | (c)                           | investi<br>that —                           | gate it if the Director is of the opinion  |
| 17<br>18                         |     |       |                               | (i)   | it is not suitable to be dealt with under either section 39B or 39; and  |
| 19<br>20<br>21<br>22             |     |       |                               | (ii)  | an investigation is warranted, taking into account the likely costs and benefits of the investigation.   |
| 23                               | (3) | After | section                       | 37(5) i                                     | nsert:   |
| 24<br>25<br>26<br>27<br>28<br>29 |     | (6)   | to be do<br>does no<br>advise | ealt wit<br>ot warra<br>the con<br>e Direct | decides that a complaint is not suitable h under either section 39B or 39 and ant investigating, the Director must applainant in writing of the decision and or will take no further action on the |
| 31<br>32<br>33<br>34             |     | (7)   | relation                      | •   | ning functions under this section in omplaint, the Director must not try to plaint.  |

| 43. | Sections 39A and 39B inserted |
|-----|-------------------------------|
|     | After section 38 insert:      |

#### 39A. Response by respondent

- (1) A respondent who is given a notice under section 37(3)(c) may give the Director a written response to the complaint concerned.
  - (2) A respondent who is given a notice under section 37(4A) must give the Director a written response to the complaint concerned.
  - (3) Any response given under subsection (1) or (2) must be given to the Director within 28 days, or any longer period allowed under subsection (4), after the date on which the provider receives a notice given under section 37(3)(c) or (4A), as the case requires.
  - (4) The Director may extend that 28 day period for good reason.
  - (5) If a respondent does not comply with subsection (2), the Director may nevertheless deal with the complaint under this Part.
  - (6) A respondent who does not comply with subsection (2) does not commit an offence.
  - (7) The Director must include in the annual report of the Complaints Office required by the *Financial Management Act 2006* Part 5 the details of any breach of subsection (2) that, in the Director's opinion, was committed without a reasonable excuse.
- (8) Evidence of anything said in a response given by a respondent under this section is not admissible in proceedings before a court or tribunal.

| 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5 | (9)  | Despite the <i>Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971</i> section 20(3), evidence referred to in subsection (8) may be disclosed to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations for the purposes of an investigation under that Act. |
|-----------------------|------|--|
| 6                     | 39B. | Resolving complaints by negotiation  |
| 7<br>8<br>9           | (1)  | Having accepted a complaint and complied with section 37(3)(c), the Director may, by negotiating with the complainant and the respondent, attempt to bring   |
| 10<br>11              |      | about a settlement of the complaint that is acceptable to the parties to it.   |
| 12<br>13              | (2)  | For the purposes of subsection (1) the Director may make any inquiries the Director considers appropriate.   |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17  | (3)  | If within 56 days, or any longer period allowed under subsection (4), after the date of complying with section 37(3)(c) the complaint has not been settled under subsection (1), the Director must —   |
| 18<br>19<br>20        |      | (a) refer it for conciliation under section 39 if the Director is of the opinion it is suitable to be dealt with under that section; or  |
| 21<br>22              |      | (b) investigate it if the Director is of the opinion that —  |
| 23<br>24              |      | (i) it is not suitable to be dealt with under section 39; and  |
| 25<br>26              |      | (ii) an investigation is warranted, taking into account the likely costs and benefits  |
| 27<br>28<br>29        | (4)  | of the investigation.  The Director may extend that 56 day period if it is for the benefit of the complainant to do so.  |
| 30<br>31<br>32        | (5)  | If the Director decides a complaint is not suitable to be dealt with under section 39 and does not warrant investigating, the Director must advise the complainant   |

| 1 2                          |     | in writing of the decision and that the Director will take<br>no further action on the complaint.  |
|------------------------------|-----|--|
| 3<br>4<br>5                  |     | (6) Evidence of anything said or admitted during any negotiation conducted under subsection (1) is not admissible in proceedings before a court or tribunal.   |
| 6<br>7<br>8<br>9<br>10<br>11 |     | (7) Despite the <i>Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971</i> section 20(3), evidence referred to in subsection (6) may be disclosed to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations for the purposes of an investigation under that Act. |
| 12                           | 44. | Section 39 amended   |
| 13<br>14                     | (1) | Delete section 39(1) and insert:   |
| 15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19   |     | (1) On referring a complaint for conciliation the Director must assign the task of conciliating the complaint to a member of the staff whose duties consist of or include the conciliation of complaints.  |
| 20<br>21<br>22               | (2) | In section 39(2) delete "The Director's function as conciliator" and insert:   |
| 23<br>24                     |     | A conciliator's function   |
| 25<br>26                     | (3) | In section 39(4) delete "Director," and insert:  |
| 27<br>28                     |     | conciliator,   |

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| 1<br>2                                 | (4) | After section 39(5) insert:   |
|--|-----|---|
| 3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>8             |     | (6) If the conciliation process fails to result in the settlement of a complaint between the complainant and the respondent, the Director must investigate the complaint, unless of the opinion that an investigation is not warranted due to the likely costs and benefits of the investigation. |
| 10                                     | 45. | Section 40 amended  |
| 11                                     | (1) | Delete section 40(1).   |
| 12                                     | (2) | In section 40(3):   |
| 13<br>14                               |     | (a) after "time" insert:  |
| 15<br>16                               |     | during an investigation   |
| 17<br>18                               |     | (b) delete "complaint by means of conciliation." and insert   |
| 19<br>20                               |     | complaint.  |
| 21                                     | 46. | Section 41 amended  |
| 22<br>23                               |     | After section 41(7) insert:   |
| 24<br>25<br>26<br>27<br>28<br>29<br>30 |     | (8) A person who has been given a notice under this section must not, without reasonable excuse, proof of which is on the person, furnish relevant information, or produce a relevant record, that the person knows is false or misleading in a material respect.  Penalty: \$2 500.              |

| 1        | 47.        | Sect  | ion 42A   | inserted   |
|----------|------------|-------|-----------|--|
| 2        |            | At th | ne end of | f Part 6 Division 3 insert:                      |
| 3        |            |       |           |  |
| 4        |            | 42A.  | Concil    | liator must not investigate                      |
| 5        |            |       | A pers    | on who under section 39 has conciliated a        |
| 6        |            |       | -         | aint or attempted to do so must not investigate  |
| 7        |            |       | that co   | mplaint.   |
| 8        |            |       |           |  |
| 9        | 48.        | Sect  | ion 42 a  | mended   |
| 10       |            | Afte  | r section | 42(3) insert:                                    |
| 11       |            |       |           |  |
| 12       |            | (4A)  | Before    | making a decision under subsection (1) to        |
| 13       |            |       |           | mend any action that ought to be taken to remedy |
| 14       |            |       | the ma    | tter, the Director must —                        |
| 15       |            |       | (a)       | consult the respondent; and                      |
| 16       |            |       | (b)       | ,  |
| 17       |            |       |           | to be taken to remedy the matter is likely to    |
| 18       |            |       |           | have an impact on people other than the          |
| 19<br>20 |            |       |           | respondent, consult a group of those people.     |
| 20       |            |       |           |  |
| 21       | 49.        | Sect  | ion 44A   | amended  |
| 22       |            | In se | ection 44 | A(4) delete "OHR" and insert:                    |
| 23       |            |       |           |  |
| 24       |            | Com   | plaints ( | Office   |
| 25       |            | Com   | prames    |  |
|          | <b>=</b> 0 | σ.    |           |  |
| 26       | 50.        | Sect  | ion 44B   | amended  |
| 27       |            | In se | ection 44 | B(2)(c) delete "OHR" and insert:                 |
| 28       |            |       |           |  |
| 29       |            | Com   | plaints ( | Office   |

| Part 3 | Disability | Services Act | 1993 | amended |
|--------|------------|--------------|------|---------|
|--------|------------|--------------|------|---------|

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| 1        | 51. | Sec  | tion 46B inserted  |
|----------|-----|------|--|
| 2        |     | Afte | er section 46A insert:                                     |
| 3        |     |      |  |
| 4        |     | 46B. | False or misleading statements                             |
| 5        |     |      | A person must not make a statement in a complaint,         |
| 6        |     |      | statement or report given to the Director under this Part  |
| 7        |     |      | that the person knows to be false or misleading in a       |
| 8        |     |      | material respect.  |
| 9        |     |      | Penalty: \$2 500.  |
| 10       |     |      |  |
| 11       | 52. | Sec  | tion 50 amended  |
| 12       |     | In s | ection 50 delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review |
| 13       |     |      | 1995," and insert:   |
| 14       |     |      | ,  |
| 15<br>16 |     | Нес  | alth and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995,        |

# Part 4 — Other Acts amended

| •                          |     |   |
|----------------------------|-----|---|
| 2                          | 53. | Carers Recognition Act 2004 amended   |
| 3                          | (1) | This section amends the Carers Recognition Act 2004.  |
| 4<br>5<br>6                | (2) | In the long title delete "to amend the <i>Disability Services Act 1993</i> and the <i>Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995</i> ,".                            |
| 7                          | (3) | Delete Part 5.  |
| 8<br>9<br>10               | (4) | In Schedule 2 Division 1 clause 1 delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:   |
| 11<br>12                   |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 13                         | 54. | Chiropractors Act 2005 amended  |
| 14                         | (1) | This section amends the Chiropractors Act 2005.   |
| 15<br>16                   | (2) | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |
| 17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21 |     | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |
| 22<br>23<br>24             | (3) | In sections 52(3), 55(4)(b) and 58(2)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |
| 25<br>26                   |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 27                         | 55. | Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899 amended  |
| 28                         | (1) | This section amends the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899.   |
|                            |     |   |

| 1                     | (2) | In Schedule V Part 1 Division 2:  |
|-----------------------|-----|---|
| 2                     |     | (a) delete "The Director appointed under the <i>Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995.</i> ";  |
| 4                     |     | (b) insert in alphabetical order:   |
| 5<br>6<br>7<br>8<br>9 |     | Director of the Health and Disability Services<br>Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995</i> . |
| 10                    | 56. | Financial Management Act 2006 amended   |
| 11                    | (1) | This section amends the Financial Management Act 2006.  |
| 12                    | (2) | In Schedule 1:  |
| 13                    |     | (a) delete "Office of Health Review";   |
| 14                    |     | (b) insert in alphabetical order:   |
| 15<br>16<br>17        |     | Health and Disability Services Complaints Office  |
| 18                    | 57. | Freedom of Information Act 1992 amended   |
| 19                    | (1) | This section amends the Freedom of Information Act 1992.  |
| 20                    | (2) | In Schedule 1 clause 14(3):   |
| 21<br>22              |     | (a) delete "a conciliation" and insert:   |
| 23<br>24              |     | negotiating the settlement of or conciliating a complaint   |
| 25<br>26              |     | (b) in paragraph (a) after "Division" insert:   |
| 27<br>28              |     | 3A or   |

| 1<br>2<br>3              |     | (c) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995." and insert:  |
|--------------------------|-----|---|
| 4<br>5                   |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995.   |
| 6<br>7                   | (3) | After Schedule 1 clause 14(3) insert:   |
| 8<br>9<br>10<br>11<br>12 |     | (4A) Matter is exempt matter if its disclosure would reveal anything said or admitted for the purposes of negotiating the settlement of or conciliating a complaint under Division 2 of Part 6 of the <i>Disability Services Act 1993</i> . |
| 14<br>15                 | 58. | Health Professionals (Special Events Exemption) Act 2000 amended  |
| 16<br>17                 | (1) | This section amends the <i>Health Professionals (Special Events Exemption) Act 2000.</i>  |
| 18<br>19<br>20           | (2) | In section 13(1) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |
| 21<br>22                 |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 23                       | 59. | Medical Practitioners Act 2008 amended  |
| 24                       | (1) | This section amends the Medical Practitioners Act 2008.   |
| 25                       | (2) | In section 4:   |
| 26<br>27<br>28<br>29     |     | (a) in the definition of <i>complaint</i> paragraph (d) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:   |
| 30<br>31                 |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |

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| 1 2                   |     | (b) delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:  |
|-----------------------|-----|---|
| 3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7 |     | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |
| 8<br>9<br>10          | (3) | In section 87(6)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:   |
| 11<br>12              |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 13                    | 60. | Medical Radiation Technologists Act 2006 amended  |
| 14<br>15              | (1) | This section amends the <i>Medical Radiation Technologists Act 2006</i> .   |
| 16<br>17              | (2) | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |
| 18<br>19<br>20<br>21  |     | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |
| 23<br>24<br>25        | (3) | In sections 52(3), 55(4)(b) and 58(2)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |
| 26<br>27              |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 28                    | 61. | Nurses and Midwives Act 2006 amended  |
| 29                    | (1) | This section amends the Nurses and Midwives Act 2006.   |

| (2) | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |
|-----|---|
|     | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |
| (3) | In sections 54(3), 57(4)(b) and 60(2)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |
|     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 62. | Occupational Therapists Act 2005 amended  |
| (1) | This section amends the Occupational Therapists Act 2005.   |
| (2) | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |
|     | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |
| (3) | In sections 52(3), 55(4)(b) and 58(2)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |
|     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 63. | Optometrists Act 2005 amended   |
| (1) | This section amends the Optometrists Act 2005.  |
|     | (3)<br>62.<br>(1)<br>(2)  |

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|-------|--|
|-------|--|

| 1                          | (2) | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |  |
|----------------------------|-----|---|--|
| 3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7      |     | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |  |
| 8<br>9<br>10               | (3) | In sections 51(3), 54(4)(b) and 57(2)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |  |
| 11<br>12                   |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |  |
| 13                         | 64. | Osteopaths Act 2005 amended   |  |
| 14                         | (1) | This section amends the Osteopaths Act 2005.  |  |
| 15<br>16                   | (2) | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |  |
| 17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21 |     | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |  |
| 22<br>23<br>24             | (3) | In sections 51(3), 54(4)(b) and 57(2)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |  |
| 25<br>26                   |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |  |
| 27                         | 65. | Physiotherapists Act 2005 amended   |  |
| 00                         | (1) | This section amends the <i>Physiotherapists Act 2005</i> .  |  |
| 28                         | (1) | This section differents the Thystotherapists Het 2003.  |  |

| 1 2                        | (2)        | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |
|----------------------------|------------|---|
| 3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7      |            | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995;        |
| 8<br>9<br>10               | (3)        | In sections 52(3), 55(4)(b) and 58(2)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |
| 11<br>12                   |            | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 13                         | 66.        | Podiatrists Act 2005 amended  |
| 14                         | (1)        | This section amends the <i>Podiatrists Act 2005</i> .   |
| 15<br>16                   | (2)        | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert:   |
| 17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21 |            | <b>Director</b> means the Director of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under the <i>Health and Disability Services (Complaints)</i> Act 1995; |
| 22<br>23<br>24             | (3)        | In sections 52(3), 55(4)(b) and 58(2)(b) delete "Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:  |
| 25<br>26                   |            | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995  |
| 27                         | <b>67.</b> | Psychologists Act 2005 amended  |
| 28                         | (1)        | This section amends the <i>Psychologists Act 2005</i> .   |

| : 4 | Other Acts | amended |
|-----|------------|---------|
|     |            |         |

| 4  | (2) | In section 3 delete the definition of <i>Director</i> and insert: |
|----|-----|---|
| 1  | (2) | in section 3 defete the definition of <b>Director</b> and insert. |
| 2  |     |   |
| 3  |     | Director means the Director of the Health and                     |
| 4  |     | Disability Services Complaints Office appointed under             |
| 5  |     | the Health and Disability Services (Complaints)                   |
| 6  |     | Act 1995;   |
| 7  |     |   |
| 8  | (3) | In sections 51(3), 54(4)(b) and 57(2)(b) delete "Health Services  |
| 9  | ( ) | (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995" and insert:                   |
| 10 |     | (   |
| 10 |     |   |
| 11 |     | Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995              |
| 12 |     | ,   |
|    |     |   |
| 13 |     | <del></del>   |