

1991

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1991

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Amendments to be Moved on Behalf of the Government

(Circulated by authority of Minister for Health, Housing  
and Community Services, the Honourable Brian Howe MP)

NOTES ON AMENDMENTS

Amendment (1) replaces the commencement date in subclause 2(2) of the Bill from 1 November 1991 to 1 December 1991. This delay is due to the fact that the replacement General Medical Services Table will also include matters contained in the Health Insurance Amendment Bill 1991 which will now not come into effect until 1 December 1991.

Amendment (2) inserts clause 4A into the Health Insurance Amendment Bill (No 2) 1991. This clause inserts a reference into Section 19B of the Principal Act which provides that Medicare benefits are not payable in respect of services rendered by disqualified practitioners. Under the new arrangements proposed in clauses 7 and 8 of the Bill a medical practitioner is referred to a Medicare Participation Review Committee (MPRC) after the second or subsequent penalty for excessive servicing has been imposed on the medical practitioner. The MPRC may determine that the medical practitioner should be partially or totally disqualified. The effect of the clause 4A amendment is to ensure that professional services provided by such a practitioner who has been partially or totally disqualified will not attract Medicare benefits partially or totally. This amendment reflects similar provisions contained in the Health Insurance Act 1973 under which the MPRC considers whether a medical practitioner should have no action taken, be counselled, reprimanded or partially or totally disqualified from the Medicare arrangements. This new consequential amendment excludes, in part or totally, from the Medicare arrangements a medical practitioner who has been partially or totally disqualified.

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