1996-97

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

(As read a third time)

## **Hearing Services and AGHS Reform Bill** 1997

No. , 1997

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Hearing Services Act* 1991, to enact transitional provisions relating to the corporatisation of the Australian Government Health Service, and for other purposes

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This Bill originated in the House of Representatives; and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Senate
for its concurrence.
L.M. BARLIN  Clerk of the House of Representatives
House of Representatives 27 February 1997
27 February 1997
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1991, to enact transitional provisions relating to the
1991, to enact transitional provisions relating to the corporatisation of the Australian Government
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## 2 Commencement

- (1) Subject to this section, this Act commences on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.
- (2) Part 2 of Schedule 1 commences on 1 July 1997.
- (3) If Schedule 2 to the *Reform of Employment Services* (Consequential Provisions) Act 1997 does not commence before the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent, the amendment of the definition of *eligible employment services* provider in subsection 6(1) of the Privacy Act 1988 made by this Act commences immediately after the commencement of Schedule 2 to the Reform of Employment Services (Consequential Provisions) Act 1997.

Part 2—Transitional provisions relating to the 2 corporatisation of the Australian 3 **Government Health Service (AGHS) Division 1—Introduction** 5 3 Simplified outline 6 The following is a simplified outline of this Part: 7 This Part provides for the corporatisation of the Australian 8 Government Health Service (AGHS). AGHS was a part of the Department as at the commencement of this Part. 10 In this Part, the new corporate structure for the operations of 11 the AGHS is called the *nominated company*. 12 The Commonwealth may transfer AGHS assets, contracts, 13 liabilities and records to the nominated company. 14 Provision is made for the transfer of pending proceedings. 15 The balance of the Australian Government Health Service 16 Trust Account will be transferred to the nominated company. 17 The nominated company will be exempt from State and 18 Territory taxes so long as the company is Commonwealth-19 owned. 20 The nominated company will not be treated as an agency of 2.1 the Commonwealth. 22 4 Definitions 23 In this Part, unless the contrary intention appears: 24

1

1	AGHS means Australian Government Health Service.
2	asset means:
3	(a) any legal or equitable estate or interest in real or personal
4	property, whether actual, contingent or prospective; and
5	(b) any right, power, privilege or immunity, whether actual,
6	contingent or prospective.
7	Commonwealth-owned, in relation to a company, has the meaning
8	given by section 6.
9	contract includes:
10	(a) a deed; and
11	(b) a deed poll.
12	instrument includes a document.
13	land registration official, in relation to land, means the Registrar
14	of Titles or other proper officer of the State or Territory in which
15	the land is situated.
16	liability means any liability, duty or obligation, whether actual,
17	contingent or prospective.
18	nominated company has the meaning given by section 5.
19	5 Nominated company
20	(1) The Minister may, by writing, declare that a specified company is
21	the <i>nominated company</i> for the purposes of this Part.
22	(2) The company must:
23	(a) be incorporated under the Corporations Law; and
24	(b) have a share capital.
25	(3) The declaration has effect accordingly.
26	(4) A copy of the declaration is to be published in the <i>Gazette</i> within
27	14 days after the making of the declaration.

1	6 Commonwealth-owned company
2 3 4	For the purposes of this Part, a company is <i>Commonwealth-owned</i> at a particular time if, and only if, all the shares in the company are beneficially owned by the Commonwealth at that time.
5	7 Crown to be bound
6 7 8	This Part binds the Crown in right of the Commonwealth, of each of the States, of the Australian Capital Territory, of the Northern Territory and of Norfolk Island.
9	8 External Territories
10	This Part extends to all the external Territories.
11	9 Extra-territorial operation
12 13	This Part extends to acts, omissions, matters and things outside Australia, whether or not in a foreign country.

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Division 2—Transfers from the Commonwealth to the 2 nominated company 3 10 Transfer of assets 4 (1) This section applies to an asset of the Commonwealth that was 5 used, is used, or is proposed to be used, by the AGHS. 6 (2) The Minister may, by writing, make any or all of the following 7 declarations: 8 (a) a declaration that a specified asset vests in the nominated 9 company at a specified time without any conveyance, transfer 10 or assignment; 11 (b) a declaration that a specified instrument relating to a 12 specified asset continues to have effect after the asset vests in 13 the nominated company as if a reference in the instrument to 14 the Commonwealth were a reference to the nominated 15 company; 16 (c) a declaration that the nominated company becomes the 17 Commonwealth's successor in law in relation to a specified 18 asset immediately after the asset vests in the nominated 19 company. 20 2.1 Note: An asset or instrument may be specified by name, by inclusion in a specified class or in any other way. 22 (3) A declaration under subsection (2) has effect accordingly. 23 (4) A copy of a declaration under subsection (2) is to be published in 24 the Gazette within 14 days after the making of the declaration. 25 (5) A time specified under paragraph (2)(a) must be a time when the 26 nominated company is Commonwealth-owned. 27 (6) Subsection (2) does not prevent the Commonwealth from 28 transferring an asset to the nominated company otherwise than 29 under that subsection. 30

1	11 Transfer	of contractual rights and obligations
2		his section applies to a contract (other than a contract of
3		mployment):
4		(a) that related or relates to the AGHS; and
5		(b) to which the Commonwealth is a party.
6		he Minister may, by writing, declare that the Commonwealth's
7	ri	ghts and obligations under a specified contract:
8 9		(a) cease to be rights and obligations of the Commonwealth at a specified time; and
10		(b) become rights and obligations of the nominated company at
11		that time.
12	(3) T	he Minister may, by writing, declare that a specified contract
13		ontinues to have effect after a specified time as if a reference in
14	th	ne contract to the Commonwealth were a reference to the
15	ne	ominated company.
16		he Minister may, by writing, declare that a specified instrument
17		elating to a specified contract continues to have effect, after the
18		ommonwealth's rights and obligations under the contract become
19		ghts and obligations of the nominated company, as if a reference
20		the instrument to the Commonwealth were a reference to the
21	ne	ominated company.
22		he Minister may, by writing, declare that the nominated company
23		ecomes the Commonwealth's successor in law, in relation to the
24		ommonwealth's rights and obligations under a specified contract,
25		nmediately after the Commonwealth's rights and obligations
26		nder the contract become rights and obligations of the nominated
27	CO	ompany.
28	(6) A	declaration under this section has effect accordingly.
29	(7) A	copy of a declaration under this section is to be published in the
30		Sazette within 14 days after the making of the declaration.
31	(8) A	time specified under subsection (2) or (3) must be a time when
32	th	ne nominated company is Commonwealth-owned.
33	(9) T	his section does not, by implication, limit section 10.

1 2	Note: A contract or instrument may be specified by name, by inclusion in a specified class or in any other way.
3	12 Transfer of liabilities
4	(1) This section applies to a liability of the Commonwealth that related
5	or relates to the AGHS.
6	(2) The Minister may, by writing, make any or all of the following
7	declarations:
8	(a) a declaration that a specified liability ceases to be a liability
9	of the Commonwealth and becomes a liability of the
10	nominated company at a specified time;
11	(b) a declaration that a specified instrument relating to a
12	specified liability continues to have effect after the liability becomes a liability of the nominated company as if a
13 14	reference in the instrument to the Commonwealth were a
15	reference to the nominated company;
16	(c) a declaration that the nominated company becomes the
17	Commonwealth's successor in law in relation to a specified
18	liability immediately after the liability becomes a liability of
19	the nominated company.
20	(3) A declaration under subsection (2) has effect accordingly.
21	(4) A copy of a declaration under subsection (2) is to be published in
22	the <i>Gazette</i> within 14 days after the making of the declaration.
23 24	(5) A time specified under paragraph (2)(a) must be a time when the nominated company is Commonwealth-owned.
	• •
25 26	Note: A liability or instrument may be specified by name, by inclusion in a specified class or in any other way.
27	13 Transfers of land may be registered
28	(1) This section applies if:
29	(a) any right, title or interest in particular land vests in the
30	nominated company under section 10; and
31	(b) there is lodged with a land registration official a certificate
32	that:
33	(i) is signed by the Minister; and

1	(ii) identifies the land; and
2	(iii) states that the right, title or interest has become vested in the nominated company under section 10.
3	in the nonlinated company under section 10.
4	(2) The land registration official may:
5	(a) register the matter in a way that is the same as, or similar to,
6	the way in which dealings in land of that kind are registered;
7	and
8	(b) deal with, and give effect to, the certificate.
9	(3) A document that appears to be a certificate under subsection (1) is
10	to be taken to be such a certificate, and to have been properly
11	given, unless the contrary is established.
12	14 This Division does not modify registers kept by land registration
13	officials
	<del></del>
14	This Division, in so far as it provides for the interpretation of
15	references in other instruments, does not modify any register kept
16	by a land registration official under a law of a State or Territory.
17	15 Transfer of pending proceedings
18	(1) This section applies if, as a result of a declaration made by the
19	Minister under this Division, a person (the <i>successor</i> ) becomes the
20 21	successor in law of another person (the original person) at a
20	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right,
20 21	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.
20 21	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right,
20 21 22	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.
<ul><li>20</li><li>21</li><li>22</li><li>23</li></ul>	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.  (2) If any proceedings to which the original person was a party:
20 21 22 23 24	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.  (2) If any proceedings to which the original person was a party:  (a) were pending in any court or tribunal immediately before that
20 21 22 23 24 25	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.  (2) If any proceedings to which the original person was a party:  (a) were pending in any court or tribunal immediately before that time; and
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.  (2) If any proceedings to which the original person was a party:  (a) were pending in any court or tribunal immediately before that time; and  (b) related, in whole or in part, to the asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation, as the case may be;
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.  (2) If any proceedings to which the original person was a party:  (a) were pending in any court or tribunal immediately before that time; and  (b) related, in whole or in part, to the asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation, as the case may be; then, unless the Minister otherwise determines in writing in
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.  (2) If any proceedings to which the original person was a party:  (a) were pending in any court or tribunal immediately before that time; and  (b) related, in whole or in part, to the asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation, as the case may be;
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.  (2) If any proceedings to which the original person was a party:  (a) were pending in any court or tribunal immediately before that time; and  (b) related, in whole or in part, to the asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation, as the case may be; then, unless the Minister otherwise determines in writing in relation to the proceedings, the successor is, by force of this
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	successor in law of another person (the <i>original person</i> ) at a particular time in relation to a particular asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation.  (2) If any proceedings to which the original person was a party:  (a) were pending in any court or tribunal immediately before that time; and  (b) related, in whole or in part, to the asset, liability, right, benefit or obligation, as the case may be; then, unless the Minister otherwise determines in writing in relation to the proceedings, the successor is, by force of this subsection, substituted for the original person as a party to the

1	16 Transf	er of records
2	(1)	This section applies to a record of the Commonwealth that relates to the AGHS.
5		to the FIGHS.
4	(2)	If the nominated company is Commonwealth-owned, the Minister
5		may direct the Secretary to the Department to transfer specified
6		records to the nominated company.
7		Note: A record may be specified by name, by inclusion in a specified class
8		or in any other way.
9	(3)	The Secretary to the Department must ensure that the direction is
10	(5)	complied with.
		<del></del>
11	(4)	In this section:
10		record has the same manning as in the Aughines Act 1002
12		<b>record</b> has the same meaning as in the Archives Act 1983.

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2 3	Division 3—Transfer of certain amounts to the nominated company
4	17 Transfer time
5 6	(1) The Minister may, by writing, determine that a specified time is the <i>transfer time</i> for the purposes of this Division.
7	(2) The determination has effect accordingly.
8	18 Transfer of Trust Account balance to nominated company
9 10	(1) This section applies if the <i>Audit Act 1901</i> is in force at the transfer time.
11 12 13 14	(2) As soon as practicable after the transfer time, there is payable to the nominated company, out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, ar amount equal to the balance of the Australian Government Health Service Trust Account as at the transfer time.
15 16 17	Note: The Australian Government Health Service Trust Account will be closed under the <i>Audit Act 1901</i> and the balance transferred to the Consolidated Revenue Fund under that Act.
18	(3) The Consolidated Revenue Fund is appropriated accordingly.
19 20 21	(4) The payment under subsection (2) is to be made by way of consideration, or partial consideration, for an issue of shares by the nominated company to the Commonwealth.
22	19 Transfer of Reserve balance to nominated company
23 24	(1) This section applies if the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i> is in force at the transfer time.
25 26 27 28 29	(2) As soon as practicable after the transfer time, there is payable to the nominated company, out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, an amount equal to the balance of the Australian Government Health Ser************************************
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3		*****************
4		*****************
5		*****************
6		*******1) and (2) do not limit each other.
7	(4)	In this item:
8		modifications includes additions, omissions and substitutions.
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15		
6		(5/96)

Hearing Services and AGHS Reform Bill 1997 No. , 1997 1