22 July 2016

Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
Georges Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

To the Research Director

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Thank you for inviting the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) to provide a submission to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (the Bill).

PHAA endorses the proposed amendments to the Bill including amending:

- the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse to 16 years, and to replace references to sodomy with anal intercourse
- the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database The Viewer and enable more efficient disclosure of confidential patient information for research purposes
- the Public Health Act 2005 to:
  - allow health information relating to deceased patients to be disclosed for research purposes
  - enable schools to share student information with school immunisation and oral health services providers to improve the uptake of the School Immunisation Program and School Dental Program
  - make consequential amendments to reflect changes to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
- the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 to facilitate the payment of bonuses to successful discoverers or inventors.

We commend the intentions of the Bill to support the implementation of policy initiatives to protect and improve the health of Queenslanders and to improve the operation of the acts.

The PHAA appreciates the opportunity to make this submission and would be happy to provide further consultation on public health policy issues should the committee require.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information or have any queries in relation to this submission.

Michael Moore BA, Dip Ed, MPH
Chief Executive Officer
Public Health Association of Australia

Dr Paul Gardiner, PhD
Queensland Branch President
Public Health Association of Australia