

Explanatory Statement

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

SERIAL NO. 25

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

GENERAL OUTLINE

This Bill amends the *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979* (NDA) and the *Notifiable Diseases Act 1981*(TAA).

The purpose of this Bill is to streamline and modernise regularly used administratively heavy and costly approval processes written over 40 years ago.

These proposed changes will save time, save costs and increase productivity by re-aligning the approvals into a more proportionate and contemporary format.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1. Short Title.

This is a formal clause which provides for the citation of the Bill. The Bill when passed will be cited as the *Health Legislation Amendment Act 2021*.

Clause 2. Commencement.

This Act commences on the day after the day on which the Administrator's assent to this Act is declared.

Clause 3. Act Amended.

Amends the *Notifiable Diseases Act 1981*.

Clause 4. Section 17 amended (Declaration of Isolation Area)

Amends section 17(2) to change 'two months' into 'two years' so the Minister for Health has the option to declare a longer time period for an Isolation Area to be in force. This can be revoked at any time.

Clause 5. Section 26A amended (Interpretation)

Removes the need for the Minister to use a gazetted instrument to approve an updated donor blood survey, and allows it to be approved by a Chief Health Officer declaration published on an Agency Webpage.

Clause 6. Part 5 Inserted

This ensures a new Part is added to the Act so the current blood donor survey at the time the legislation is amended remains in effect until its next regular update.

Clause 7. Schedule 1 – Act further amended

Changes the Acts numbering and abbreviations from Roman symbols to modern numbers and symbols. Example: IIIA becomes 3A.

Clause 8. Act amended

Amends the *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979*.

Clause 9. Section 22D amended (Codes of practice)

Removes two of the approval process steps and retains the last one being ‘published on Agency website’.

Clause 10. Codes of practice

Ensures the Code of Practice that is current at the time the amendments occur stays in effect.

Clause 11. Repeal of Act

Repeals the Act the day after it changes the NDA and TAA.