

# Major Events (Commonwealth Games–Visiting Health Practitioner Exemptions) Regulation 2016

Explanatory notes for SL 2016 No. 123

made under the

*Major Events Act 2014*

## General Outline

### Short title

*Major Events (Commonwealth Games–Visiting Health Practitioner Exemptions) Regulation 2016*

### Authorising law

Sections 41(b) and 84(1) of the *Major Events Act 2014*

### Policy objectives and the reasons for them

It is often the case with large sporting, cultural or political events that participating delegations from other countries will be accompanied by medical teams comprising health practitioners such as doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and psychologists. Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Queensland)* health practitioners are required to be registered in order to provide health services in Queensland and throughout Australia with heavy penalties applying for offences against these requirements.

The *Major Events Act 2014* (the Act) allows a visiting health practitioner to be exempted from having to register under State law when practising a health profession, as defined under section 5 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Queensland)*, for a visitor for an exempt event during an exemption period. For an exemption to occur, the exempt event and the exemption period must be prescribed by regulation.

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (the Games) will take place between 4 and 15 April 2018. Participating in the Games will be 6,500 athletes and team officials from 71 nations and territories. Therefore, the Games qualify as an “exempt event” under section 41(b) of the Act for the purposes of prescribing an “exemption period” for visiting health practitioners.

The policy objective is to exempt visiting health practitioners from having to register under State law to provide health care services for athletes and visitors for the Games.

## **Achievement of policy objectives**

The policy objective will be achieved by prescribing the Games as an exempt event and by prescribing the period from 1 August 2016 up to and including 30 April 2018 as the visiting health practitioner exemption period.

## **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

The *Major Events (Commonwealth Games–Visiting Health Practitioner Exemptions) Regulation 2016* is consistent with the policy objectives of the authorising law, as described above.

## **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

There is no inconsistency with the policy objectives of other legislation.

## **Benefits and costs of implementation**

The costs of implementing the Regulation are negligible.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

The Regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

The exempt event and visiting health practitioner exemption period is for a particular defined event and is circumscribed by specific time limitations which minimise any potential disruption or impact, and help to ensure sufficient regard is given to the rights and liberties of individuals.

## **Consultation**

The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation have been consulted.

All parties consulted support the Regulation.

The Queensland Productivity Commission was consulted and has advised that as this regulation is an administrative matter provided for under the Act and is machinery in nature, it is excluded from the Regulatory Impact Statement system.

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