

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PSYCHOLOGISTS AMENDMENT BILL 2000

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Circulated by the authority of
Michael Moore MLA
Minister for Health and Community Care

The *Psychologists Act 1994* (the Act) provides for the registration of psychologists, to control the practice of psychology and for related purposes. The Psychologists Board's main aim is to protect the public and as such, it regulates practitioners in the interests of public safety. This is achieved by registering suitably qualified practitioners, investigating complaints and where necessary, conducting disciplinary proceedings.

The Act, however, omits a requirement for psychologists employed in the public sector from being subject to the provisions of the Act. The *Psychologists Amendment Bill 2000* makes a provision to include a requirement for practising psychologists employed in the public sector to be regulated under the Act.

The Bill addresses an anomaly in the current legislation by omitting section 3(2) and inserting section 3A, which makes provision to include the registration of psychologists both in the private and public sectors.

One of the principal aims of the Psychologists Board of the ACT is to protect the public and the amendment clearly serves the public interest.