

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

AMENDMENT OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES
ORDINANCE 1963

No.24 of 1980

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Amendment) Ordinance 1980 gives effect to a World Health Organisation recommendation that certain additional information be collected concerning perinatal deaths (that is, where the child dies during childbirth, or soon thereafter). This amendment is in accord with recently adopted international practice. The Ordinance also modifies the definition of 'child' in the Principal Ordinance.

Sections 1 and 2 of the Ordinance deal with interpretation provisions.

Section 3 of the Ordinance amends the definition of 'child' in section 5(1) of the Principal Ordinance to increase the relevant gestation period from 20 weeks to 22 weeks, and the relevant minimum weight from 450 grammes to 500 grammes.

Section 4 of the Ordinance omits sub-section 24(2) of the Principal Ordinance and substitutes a redrafted sub-section. The new sub-section incorporates current provisions relating to details required to be recorded by a medical practitioner in respect of a child not born alive, together with the additional information. In general, the new requirements relate to statistical matters regarding the cause of death of the foetus or child, information concerning the mother, and particulars of the birth attendant (that is, whether physician, trained midwife, other trained person or other person).

Section 5 of the Ordinance will effect consequential renumbering changes to section 34 of the Principal Ordinance.

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