

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Dentists Registration Ordinance 1931-1970

Medical Practitioners Registration Ordinance 1930-1969

Nurses Registration Ordinance 1933-1967

Optometrists Ordinance 1956-1967

Pharmacy Ordinance 1931-1967

Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance 1965-1967

The payment of fees and travelling allowances to witnesses who attend inquiries conducted by professional boards or the Minister, under the legislation for professional registration boards in the Australian Capital Territory, has been based on a scale of fees and allowances in the Regulations made under the Public Works Committee Act 1913-1966. The Public Works Committee Act 1969, and new Regulations under that Act, have superseded the old scale of fees and allowances necessitating a consequential amendment of the Ordinances relating to professional registration boards.

The amending Ordinances will provide that a person who gives evidence before a Board or the Minister will be entitled to receive fees and travelling expenses based on those set down in the Public Works Committee Regulations

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such as the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Board, or the Minister as the case may be, determines.

The amending Ordinances have been drafted bearing in mind the objections raised by the Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances in relation to the extent of the discretion of the Minister and the Chairman of Boards in Ordinances administered by the Minister for the Interior. The Ordinances examined by the Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances were made earlier this year and provided for the fees and travelling expenses payable to witnesses attending before Boards.

The opportunity has been taken to clarify the position of Dental Therapists under the Dentists Registration Ordinance by further amendments of sub-section (1B.) of section 34 and sub-section (2.) of section 38. By the amendment of 15 January 1970 Dental Therapists (Female) employed under the Public Service Act 1922-1968 are exempt from the prohibitions imposed by sections 34 and 38 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance. The further amendment will make it clear that the duties of Dental Therapists are to be performed subject to the direction and control of a registered dentist.