

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

***HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (SPECIAL EVENTS EXEMPTION) ACT 2000***

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**INSTRUMENT NO. 278 OF 2000**

**NOTIFICATION OF A SPECIAL EVENT**

**OLYMPIC GAMES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT  
AND  
OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**

The *Health Professionals (Special Events Exemptions) Act 2000* in principle allows for certain special events to be exempted from the operation of the ACT health professional registration Acts. Visiting overseas health professionals providing health services in accordance with the provisions of the *Health Professionals (Special Events Exemptions) Act 2000* are exempted from the requirements of the registration Acts.

A declaration of a special event is made under Section 5 of the Act. The Minister for Health and Community Care may declare a special event through the publication of a notice in the Gazette.

It is intended to declare the Olympic Games Football Tournament, and the Olympic and Paralympic Games as special events. These events come within the definition of a special event as set out in the legislation:

*The Minister may, by notice published in the Gazette, declare an event to be a special event for this Act if the Minister is satisfied that a significant number of persons from outside Australia will come to the Territory to participate in, or prepare, train, practice, rehearse or acclimatise for, the event.*

The requirements of the Act are further that the notice specify the exemption period and the notification procedure for giving notice within the Territory that persons will be a visiting health professional for a visitor to a special event. This information has been included in the notice.

The Act in addition provides at Section 10(3)(a) and 10(3)(b) that:

- (3)** *The Minister may, in a special event notice-*
- (a)** *authorise an individual visiting health professional, or a class of visiting health professionals, whom he or she is satisfied should be regarded as qualified to issue prescriptions, to issue written prescriptions for a restricted substance in the course of providing health care services in accordance with this Act; and*
  - (b)** *authorise a particular supplier or class of suppliers to supply a restricted substance on sub a prescription."*

In order to exercise control over prescriptions for restricted substances, the notice further establishes that a prescription for a restricted substance can only be filled at the Olympic Polyclinic for the Olympic Games Football Tournament. In the case of an emergency outside the hours of operation of the Olympic Polyclinic, The Canberra Hospital is to supply a restricted substance on such a prescription.

For those participating in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, who are not involved in the Olympic Football Tournament, a prescription for a restricted substance can only be filled at the O'Connor Pharmacy. In the case of an emergency outside the hours of operation of the O'Connor Pharmacy, The Canberra Hospital is to supply a restricted substance on such a prescription.

The Olympic Polyclinic, O'Connor Pharmacy, and The Canberra Hospital will have a list of all visiting health professionals associated with the visiting teams, to ensure that the visiting health professionals have been approved by the ACT Olympic Medical Coordinator to issue prescriptions.