

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 10 March 2020

Abortion Legislation Bill

Proposed amendment

Dr Deborah Russell, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 7

In *clause 7*, after *new section 19(3)* (page 9, after line 17), insert:

19A Services not provided by entity due to conscientious objection

- (1) If an entity that would ordinarily be expected to provide any of the types of services listed in **section 19(1)** does not provide those services, or provides only a subset of those services, due to conscientious objection of people that work at or operate from the entity, the entity must—
 - (a) advise, on the website of the entity, which services of the types listed in **section 19(1)** are and are not provided; and
 - (b) inform people seeking to enrol with the entity which services of the types listed in **section 19(1)** are and are not provided; and
 - (c) include a notice in the public area of the entity stating which services of the types listed in **section 19(1)** are and are not provided.
- (2) If a person seeks services of the types listed in **section 19(1)** from an entity and is instead informed of a conscientious objection during the consultation, the person must not be charged for the consultation.

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) amends *clause 7* of the Abortion Legislation Bill. Currently, *new section 19(2)* requires providers to inform patients of a conscientious objection. This SOP introduces greater clarity to the framework for conscientious objection by requiring entities (such as a medical practice) that would ordinarily be expected to provide contraception, sterilisation, and abortion services to take steps to notify patients and potential patients of a conscientious objection prior to the patient seeking these services. This SOP also provides that a person may not be charged a consultation fee if during the consultation they are informed of a conscientious objection to providing the type of services they are seeking.