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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1928

**PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES)
REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Circulated by authority of

**Mr Wayne Berry MLA
Minister for Health**

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1928

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)

The Public Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Regulations (Amendment) represents a major reform of the ACT's antiquated and inadequate lists of infectious and notifiable diseases. It replaces the current lists with more comprehensive and modern ones and brings the ACT to the forefront of Australian diseases reporting.

Commencement

The Amendment will commence on the day it is notified in the Gazette.

Background

The Amendment will update the list of Infectious and Notifiable diseases in the Principal Regulations to bring the ACT in line with the recommendations of the National Network for Communicable Disease Surveillance and the Public Health Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV infection all stages), is not included in this Amendment as it will be dealt with as a separate amendment. In the meantime, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome will remain as a notifiable disease.

The diseases added to the Regulations are: botulism, campylobacter, chlamydia, Haemophilus influenzae type b infections, legionellosis, listeriosis, measles, mumps, pertussis, rabies, viral haemorrhagic fever, yersiniosis, hepatitis C and other unspecified viral hepatitis infections. Also, to simplify the list, diseases for which there is no longer a need for routine reporting have been omitted. These include: smallpox, trachoma, typhus, amoebiasis, ankylostomiasis and lead poisoning.

Consequences

Briefly, the Amendment provides for:

- . the clear delineation of the diseases which should be reported by doctors, pathologists and hospitals so that the Medical Officer of Health may take action, if necessary, to prevent the spread of disease.
- . the reporting of all the vaccine preventable diseases listed in the NHMRC Childhood Immunisation Schedule to enable proper assessment of the Childhood Immunisation Program.
- . the harmonisation of the ACT element of disease reporting with other States and the National Network for Communicable Disease Surveillance.