

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY***HEALTH ACT 1993*****EXPLANATORY STATEMENT****APPOINTMENT OF THE ACT MATERNAL AND PERINATAL MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY COMMITTEE.**

The functions of the ACT Maternal and Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality Committee is to consider, investigate and report on the patterns and causation of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in the Australian Capital Territory so that action may be taken to reduce preventable death and disability.

The appointment of the Chair and member of the Committee is made under Section 7 (b) of the Health Act 1993, which states that:

The Minister may by instrument appoint 1 or more persons as a committee-

(b) to conduct research or investigations into morbidity and mortality in the Territory and to report, and make recommendations, to the Chief Executive in relation to that research or those investigations;

The Committee will provide an annual report to the Chief Executive, Department of Health and Community Care and report on issues as requested by the Chief Health Officer. The reports will provide recommendations that will enable the Department of Health and Community Care to:

- develop and review policies that impact on maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality;
- reduce or minimise avoidable factors associated with maternal and perinatal deaths and implement measures that could assist with the prevention of such deaths, including improvements to health services; and
- provide information and guidance for members of the health professions and the community, to assist in the reduction of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality.