

3 June 2026

Matthew Rigby  
Deputy Director-General  
Corporate Services Division  
Queensland Health

**By email:** [REDACTED]

**Subject: HHS requests for confirmation of SMO private practice professional indemnity insurance**

Dear Deputy Director-General

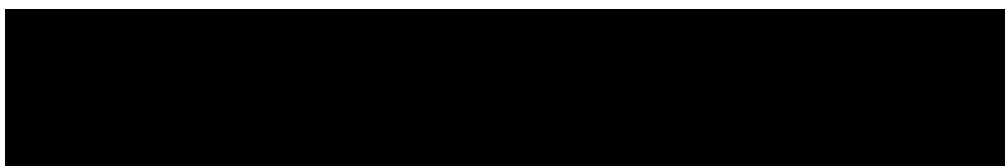
AMA Queensland members have advised that some HHSs are requesting SMOs confirm they hold professional indemnity insurance, including for when they provide services to patients who choose to be treated privately in the public system and under grant of private practice arrangements.

Our understanding of Queensland Health's human resources policy 12 'Indemnity for Queensland Health Medical Practitioners' (QH-POL-153; October 2020) is that all Queensland Health SMOs to which that policy applies are indemnified for clinical management of both public and private patients as defined in the policy, other than where indemnity is specifically excluded (e.g. where it has been proven that the practitioner has acted other than in good faith and with gross negligence).

Doctors report that the requests by HHSs for confirmation of private practice indemnity insurance is creating concerns among SMOs that they will not be indemnified by Queensland Health for private patients. They say some SMOs are considering refusing to treat these patients or resigning if they are required to pay for private indemnity cover for public hospital work. They are also questioning whether they should continue to allow doctors in training to provide care under their indemnity and registration.

We seek clarification that SMOs are indemnified by Queensland Health when treating public and private patients and that HHSs should not be seeking confirmation they hold professional indemnity insurance (whether for public or private patients). We are open to meet to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely



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**President**  
**AMA Queensland**

Dr Brett Dale  
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