

THE MATERNITY ACT OF 1922.

(13 Geo. V. No. 22.)

An Act to Make better Provision for the Establishment and Maintenance of Maternity Hospitals and Baby Clinics, and for other ancillary purposes.

[Assented to 14th October, 1922.]

1. Short title.—This Act may be cited as “*The Maternity Act of 1922.*”

2. Interpretation.—In this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the meanings set against them respectively, that is to say—

“Minister”—The Home Secretary or other Minister of the Crown charged for the time being with the administration of this Act;

“Hospital”—A public hospital established under “*The Hospitals Acts, 1847 to 1891*” or any Act amending or in substitution for those Acts;

“Committee”—The committee of a hospital elected or appointed under “*The Hospitals Acts, 1847 to 1891*” or any Act amending or in substitution for those Acts;

“District”—Any part of the State constituted a District under and for the purposes of this Act;

“Prescribed”—Prescribed by this Act;

“Regulations”—Regulations made under the authority of this Act;

“This Act”—This Act and all Orders in Council and rules and regulations made under the authority thereof.

The office of Home Secretary has been replaced by that of Secretary for Health and Home Affairs.

The Hospitals Acts, 1847 to 1891, were repealed by The Hospitals Act of 1936, s. 28, *post.* See now Part IV of that Act.

3. Constitution of Districts.—The Governor in Council may from time to time, by Order in Council published in the *Gazette*, constitute any part of Queensland a District under and for the purposes of this Act, and may in like manner alter the boundaries of any District.

4. (1.) Appointment of officers.—The Governor in Council, upon the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner, may from time to time appoint such medical officers, medical inspectors, nurses, and other officers as are required for the effectual execution of this Act.

(2.) Services of officers of other departments.—The Minister, with the concurrence of the Minister of the department concerned, may from time to time and at any time require any officer of any State department to make any inspection or valuation, or to prepare any plans, specifications, or estimates, or to perform any other duty which he deems necessary to assist the Minister or any committee in the performance of his or their powers and duties under this Act; and every such officer shall conform with such requirement.

5. (1.) **Establishment by Government of hospitals, &c.**—The Governor in Council may from time to time establish in such place or places as may be deemed expedient within a District, whether in association with and as part of a hospital established by the Government or the management whereof has been assumed by the Government or otherwise—

- (a) Maternity hospitals for the reception, care, and treatment of midwifery cases;
- (b) Hospitals for the treatment of diseases peculiar to women;
- (c) Ante-natal and baby clinics;
- (d) Training schools for nurses in midwifery, in diseases peculiar to women, and in matters ante-natal and post-natal relating to motherhood and infant life;

and may equip, manage, maintain, and control the same.

(2.) **Existing clinics.**—All ante-natal and baby clinics established by the Minister before this passing of this Act shall, subject to this Act, be and remain such clinics within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act.

(3.) **Bush nursing.**—The Governor in Council may make such provision as he deems expedient for the care, treatment, and nursing of mothers and infant life in remote places.

The word "this" where firstly occurring in the second line of subs. (2) should apparently be read as "the".

For the obligation to notify births in districts in which baby clinics are established, see The Health Act of 1937, s. 31, title HEALTH.

6. (1.) **Establishment of maternity hospitals by committees.**—The committee of any hospital within a District, with the approval of the Governor in Council, may establish in association with and as part of such hospital—

- (a) A maternity hospital for the reception, care, and treatment of midwifery cases; with which may be co-ordinated, if deemed expedient, any ante-natal and baby clinic;
- (b) A hospital for the treatment of diseases peculiar to women;

and may equip, manage, maintain, and control the same.

(2.) Such committee may from time to time add to, extend, or improve any hospital or the equipment thereof established under this section.

(3.) Provided always that—

- (a) The site of every such hospital shall be approved by the Governor in Council; and
- (b) The necessary buildings and any additions, extensions, or improvements thereto shall be erected in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by a State officer and approved by the Minister.

(4.) **Subsidy.**—In connection with any such hospital the capital cost of the purchase and erection or other acquirement of the necessary site and buildings and all necessary equipment thereof shall be defrayed by the Government; and toward the annual cost of the maintenance, management, and upkeep of any such hospital the Government may contribute such sums as are from time to time appropriated for the purpose.

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7. Power to make regulations.—The Governor in Council may from time to time make and promulgate rules and regulations for the effectual execution of this Act and the objects thereof, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing provision, for all or any of the purposes following:—

- (i.) **Management.**—The management of hospitals, clinics, training schools, and other institutions established under this Act.
- (ii.) **Charges.**—Authorising charges to be made and recovered in respect of patients treated in or in connection with any hospital established under this Act, and fixing such charges and prescribing the method of recovery thereof:

Provided that no person shall be refused the benefits of an institution by reason of inability to pay therefor.

All such rules and regulations, upon being published in the *Gazette*, shall have the same effect as if they were enacted in this Act, and shall be judicially noticed, and shall not be questioned in any proceedings whatsoever.

All such rules and regulations shall be laid before Parliament within fourteen days after the making thereof if Parliament is then in session, or if not, then within fourteen days after the commencement of the next session thereof.

8. Expenses to be paid out of moneys appropriated.—All expenses of carrying this Act into execution shall be paid out of moneys to be from time to time appropriated by Parliament for the purpose.

9. Annual report.—The Minister shall submit to the Governor in Council an annual report on the working and operation of this Act.

Such report shall be laid before Parliament.
