

# BILL NO. 35 OF 2015

## A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE PHARMACY PROFESSION DECREE 2011

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

*Short title and commencement*

**1.**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Pharmacy Profession (Budget Amendment) Act 2015.

(2) This Act shall come into force on 1 January 2016.

(3) In this Act, the Pharmacy Profession Decree 2011 shall be referred to as the “Decree”.

*New section inserted*

**2.** The Decree is amended by inserting the following new section after section 48—

*“Free Medicine Programme*

48A.—(1) Any person who has obtained the approval of the Board under section 48 to carry on a pharmacy business must participate in the Free Medicine Programme.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 and an additional fine of \$5,000 for each day the offence continues.

(3) In this section, “Free Medicine Programme” means the Free Medicine Programme introduced by the Government for eligible persons to have access to specified medicine free of charge from 1 January 2015.”

*Office of the Attorney-General  
Suvavou House  
Suva*

*November 2015*

## **PHARMACY PROFESSION (BUDGET AMENDMENT) BILL 2015**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Bill and is only intended to indicate its general effect)*

#### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Pharmacy Profession (Budget Amendment) Bill 2015 (**'Bill'**) seeks to amend the Pharmacy Profession Decree 2011 (**'Decree'**).
- 1.2 In the 2015 National Budget Address, the Government introduced the Free Medicine Programme.
- 1.3 All eligible Fijians can obtain specified medicine for free from any government pharmacy.

#### **2.0 CLAUSES**

- 2.1 Clause 1 of the Bill provides the short title and commencement date.
- 2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill inserts a new section 48A in the Decree to mandate pharmacies approved by the Board under the Decree to participate in the Free Medicine Programme.

#### **3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- 3.1 The Decree comes under the responsibility of the Minister for Health and Medical Services.

**A. SAYED-KHAIYUM**  
Attorney-General