

NSW Health Reforms

New Area Health CEOs

November 2004

Overview of NSW Health Reforms

On November 1, Director General of NSW Health Robyn Kruk announced the Chief Executives for the state's eight new Area Health Services. The positions will take effect from 1 January 2005.

The appointments are part of the reforms to the NSW health system announced in July 2004. The reforms are aimed at reducing administrative duplication and directing more funds to frontline services.

The first phase of the reforms has involved consolidating the existing 17 Area Health Services into 8 regional entities. The reforms have also created new Area Health Advisory Councils, composed of clinicians and members of local communities, which will provide direct advice to the new Chief Executives and assist in developing 5 and 10 year clinical service plans for each region. Membership of the Councils will be announced shortly after the new Area Health Services are constituted on 1 January 2005.

New Health Advisory Bodies

Other new bodies under the reforms include a Health Care Advisory Council, which will become the peak community and clinical advisory group in NSW. Providing support to the new Council will be 13 Health Priority Taskforces, involving clinical, academic, community and consumer experts.

The Taskforces cover the following disciplines: Acute Care; Aboriginal Health; Children's Health; Chronic, aged and community health care; Critical Care (Intensive Care Units, Trauma and Retrieval); Models of Care and Sustainable Access; Information Management and Technology; Maternal and Perinatal Health; Mental Health; Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce; Public Health; Rural Health; and Workforce Development.

Reform of Business Processes

The reforms to NSW Health will also affect its dealings with the private sector. A new body called HealthSupport will manage corporate and business support services, including procurement of non-core services such as linen, food, warehousing and distribution. It is hoped this integrated approach to procurement will provide innovative corporate services and significant savings to the health system.

New Area Health Service Chief Executives

Area Health Service	Name
Greater Southern	Assoc Professor Stuart Schneider
Greater Western	Dr Claire Blizard
Hunter & New England	Terry Clout
North Coast	Christopher Crawford
Northern Sydney & Central Coast	Dr Stephen Christley
South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra	Assoc Professor Debora Picone
Sydney South West	Dr Diana Horvath
Sydney West	Assoc Professor Steven Boyages

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