



Jillian Skinner
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTED FOR HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Assistant Health Minister Pru Goward today announced the appointment of Susan Dawson as Commissioner of the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC), the independent body which handles complaints against health service providers.

Ms Dawson is a lawyer with three decades experience in the state and Commonwealth public sectors. Her previous roles include Deputy Director-General of the NSW Department of Community Services, Assistant Director-General of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority and Director of Legal Policy and Services at the Law Society of NSW.

Mrs Skinner said Ms Dawson has a proven record in governance, compliance and enforcement and community engagement.

“She has the necessary skills and experience to lead the HCCC into a new era,” Mrs Skinner said.

Ms Goward said: “The powers of the state’s healthcare watchdog have never been greater. The NSW Government recently strengthened the regime under which the HCCC investigates breaches by non-registered practitioners, such as dietitians and homeopaths, and imposes conditions on their practice.

“Legislation which passed through Parliament last month also ensures the public is alerted earlier to risks arising from individual practitioners or services.”

The HCCC is a critical oversight and accountability body in the NSW health system. It has responsibility for handling and investigating complaints against doctors and nurses, as well as other registered and non-registered health service providers in both the public and private sector.

Ms Dawson has been appointed as Commissioner for a five-year term. She will commence in the role on December 7. She replaces Kieran Pehm, whose term has expired after 10 years in the office.