

# NSW health system

## Structure and responsibilities

Organisation



The aim of NSW Health is to provide a sustainable health system for the people of NSW that meets the needs of today and the future.

### NSW Health

NSW Health is made up of the Department of Health, the Health Administration Corporation, the Ambulance Service of NSW, and public health organisations.

### Department of Health

The Department of Health is responsible for ensuring that the people of NSW are provided with good health care. It monitors the performance of the NSW public health system and supports the statutory role of the NSW Minister for Health.

The Department has statewide responsibility for providing:

#### Advice to government

Supporting the role and functions of the Minister for Health and the Assisting Minister through the provision of advice, legislative review and development, and other support functions.

#### Strategic planning and statewide policy development

Undertaking system-wide policy and planning in areas including inter-government relations, funding, health service resources and workforce.

#### Improvements to public health

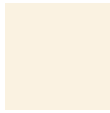
Enhancing the health of the community through regulation and health promotion and managing emerging health risks.

#### Performance management

Monitoring performance of NSW Health against key performance indicators and developing strategies to improve that performance.

#### Strategic financial and asset management

Managing the NSW health system's financial resources and assets, coordinating business and contracting opportunities for the NSW health system, and providing financial accounting policy for NSW Health.



### **Community participation**

Liaising and fostering partnerships with communities, health professionals and other bodies.

### **Employee relations**

Negotiating and determining wages and employment conditions, and developing human resource policies, for the NSW health system.

### **Corporate support**

Providing the resources and support needed to enable Department staff to effectively fulfil their roles.

### **Regulatory functions**

Managing licensing, regulatory and enforcement functions directed at ensuring compliance with Acts administered by the Health portfolio.

As at 30 June 2004, the Department was administered through six main functional areas:

### **Strategic Development**

- Centre for Mental Health
- Inter-Government and Funding Strategies
- Primary Health and Community Partnerships
- Statewide Services Development

### **Population Health**

- Office of the Chief Health Officer
- Centre for Aboriginal Health
- Centre for Drug and Alcohol Programs
- Centre for Epidemiology and Research
- Centre for Health Protection
- Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Advancement
- Oral Health Branch

### **Health System Performance**

- Health Service Performance
- Structural Reform
- Information Management and Technology
- Private Health Care
- Quality and Safety

### **Health System Support**

- Asset and Contract Services
- Communications
- Executive and Corporate Support
- Employee Relations
- Finance and Business Management

- Legal and Legislative Services
- Nursing and Midwifery Office
- Workforce Development & Leadership

### **Audit**

- Audit Unit
- Information Systems Audit
- Policy Promulgation and Administration
- Special Projects
- Employment Screening and Review Branch

### **Office of the Director-General**

- Parliament and Cabinet Unit.

### **Health Administration Corporation**

The Director-General of the Department, as the Health Administration Corporation, has a pivotal workforce relations role in the NSW public health system.

The Corporation is the employer of health system staff for the purpose of negotiating and determining wages and conditions of employment, and overseeing industrial matters. The Corporation's functions also include acquiring and disposing of land and entering into contracts to support the functions of the Director-General and the NSW Minister for Health.

### **Public health organisations**

The *Health Services Act 1997* establishes Area Health Services, Statutory Health Corporations and affiliated health organisations as distinct corporate entities known as 'public health organisations'. Area Health Services play a major role in the planning, delivery and coordination of local health services in the geographical areas they serve. They are responsible for providing services such as public hospitals, mental health services, acute care, rehabilitation, counselling and many community support programs. These services are provided in a wide range of settings, from primary care posts in the remote outback to metropolitan tertiary health centres and hospitals.

The following Area Health Services are currently established under the Act:

- Central Coast
- Central Sydney
- Far West
- Greater Murray
- Hunter
- Illawarra
- Macquarie
- Mid North Coast

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### Organisation

- Mid Western
- New England
- Northern Rivers
- Northern Sydney
- South Eastern Sydney
- South Western Sydney
- Southern
- Wentworth
- Western Sydney

During the reporting year, the Department progressed proposals to replace the 17 Area Health Services with 8 larger and more efficient Area Health Services.

There were 5 Statutory Health Corporations in place during the reporting period, which provide statewide or specialist health and health support services, being:

- the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children (the Children's Hospital at Westmead)
- the Corrections Health Service (which became Justice Health on 1 July 2004)
- the Institute for Clinical Excellence (which has been enhanced and became the Clinical Excellence Commission on 20 August 2004)
- HealthQuest
- the Stewart House Preventorium, Curl Curl.

The 22 affiliated health organisations in NSW, managed by religious and/or charitable groups, are an important part of the NSW public health system. They provide a wide range of hospital and other health services.

### Ambulance Service of NSW

The Ambulance Service of NSW, established under the *Ambulance Services Act 1990*, is responsible for providing responsive, high quality clinical care in emergency situations, including pre-hospital care, rescue, retrieval and patient transport services.

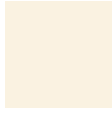
### NSW Minister for Health

The NSW Minister for Health is responsible for the administration of health legislation within NSW. Under the *Health Administration Act 1982*, the Minister formulates policies to promote, protect, maintain, develop and improve the health and well-being of the people of NSW, given the resources available to the state. The Minister is also responsible for the provision of public health services to the NSW community.

The Hon Morris Iemma MP has served as the NSW Minister for Health throughout the reporting period.

### Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)

The Hon Frank Sartor MP has served as the Minister Assisting the NSW Minister for Health throughout the reporting period. The Minister is responsible for the Cancer Institute (NSW), which oversees the state's cancer control effort.



## Department corporate charter

The Department of Health was established under section 6 of the *Health Administration Act 1982*. The Department supports the NSW Minister for Health in performing his executive and statutory functions.

These functions include promoting, protecting, developing, maintaining and improving the health and well-being of the people of NSW, while considering the needs of the state and the finances and resources available.

### Department values

#### Fairness

Striving for an equitable health system and being fair in all our dealings.

#### Respect

Recognising the worth of individuals through trust, courtesy, sensitivity and open communication.

#### Integrity

Achieving ends through ethical means, with honesty and accountability.

#### Learning and creativity

Seeking new knowledge, understanding and thinking with innovation.

#### Effectiveness

Pursuing quality outcomes.

### Department vision

To provide good health care and better health for the people of NSW.

### Department health goals

#### Quality health care

- the right care
- well-coordinated care
- shared decision-making

#### Healthier people

- staying healthy
- better quality of life
- improved social environment

#### Fairer access

- treatment when you need it
- having a fair share
- levels of health care are equal

#### Better value

- using money wisely
- services are efficient
- assets are well-managed.

### Department priorities

The Department has identified seven priorities for 2003-2005:

1. Improving health
2. Quality
3. Equity of access to service
4. Skilled and valued staff
5. Efficient use of resources
6. Involving the community
7. Tackling complex issues through alliances.