



# NEWS RELEASE

## Premier of New South Wales

### NSW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES CHAIRS OF THE LOCAL HEALTH NETWORK GOVERNING COUNCILS: STATE-COMMONWEALTH HEALTH REFORM

Friday 5 November 2010

Premier Kristina Keneally today announced the chairs of the Governing Councils that will oversee NSW's Local Health Networks – as part of the State-Commonwealth Health reform.

From January 2011, the 18 health networks will replace the existing eight Area Health Services, improving patient care by strengthening local decision making in health service delivery.

The 18 networks will be as follows:

- Eight will be geographically based and cover the Sydney metropolitan region;
- Seven will be geographically based and cover rural and regional NSW; and
- Three specialty networks will focus on Children's Health, Forensic Mental Health, and services delivered by St Vincent's Health.

The 15 Chairs announced today will manage the geographically-based networks. Additional arrangements are being put in place for the three specialty networks.

**Former NSW Premier and former NSW Health Minister, Morris Iemma and former Liberal Health Minister and Deputy Liberal Leader, Ron Phillips are among the 15 people selected to chair the health networks.**

- ***Mr Ron Phillips will be Chair of the Sydney Governing Council.*** He was Health Minister for five years in the Greiner and Fahey Governments, and is Managing Director of the Sydney Breast Clinic and Chairman of the Sydney Institutes for Health and Medical Research.
- ***Mr Morris Iemma will be Chair of South Eastern Sydney Governing Council.*** In addition to being Premier, Mr Iemma was Health Minister for more than two years in the Carr Government, and is currently Chair of the Cancer Institute Board.

**Local Health Networks are a key plank of health reforms agreed with the Commonwealth in April 2010, and will have their own budgets, management and accountabilities.**

**These reforms are delivering an extra \$1.2 billion in funding to the NSW health system over four years, and are contributing to 488 beds being opened in NSW in 2010/11.**

The networks will be administered by a Chief Executive as well as a Governing Council that includes clinicians, health and health care management experts and community representatives.

Each Governing Council will have between six and 13 members (including a Chair) depending on the size of the network, complexity of the services to be provided, and other local factors.

**“NSW is on track to have among the first Local Health Networks in Australia, with plans finalised for them to be in place in January, and recruitment underway,” Ms Keneally said.**

“Today I announce the Chairs of the 15 geographically-based Local Health Networks, which will be in place from next year to improve the way that health services are delivered in NSW.

“The individuals we have selected bring an enormous breadth and depth of experience, and include local doctors, small business people and senior leaders.

“They will play an essential part in our plans to continue improving local health services, and engage the community and our health workforce in key local decisions.”

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Carmel Tebbutt, said the Chairs of Governing Councils will play an important role in the establishment and administration of the networks.

“The Chairs for the Local Health Networks will provide strong leadership, and respond to the health needs of communities in their local areas,” Ms Tebbutt said.

“These 15 individuals will be central to delivering high quality care, and helping the NSW health system transition to the new structure next year.

“As a first step, the Chairs will be involved in the selection of Council members and Chief Executives of each network, prior to the implementation of the networks.”

Today’s appointments are the latest demonstration of how NSW is leading the nation in rolling out the historic national health reforms.

Last month the NSW Parliament passed the *Health Services Amendment (Local Health Networks) Bill*, which establishes the networks, through the Lower House. It will go before the Upper House next week.

Expressions of Interest for general members of the Governing Councils have been called, and recruitment is scheduled to be finalised in November.

Recruitment of Local Health Network Chief Executives will start shortly.

The networks will be established in January 2011, and the NSW Health system will progressively transition to the new structure over the following 6 to 12 months.

## **Background Notes**

### Local Health Networks

- On 20 April 2010, the Commonwealth reached an historic agreement with States and Territories (except WA) to implement national health reform – National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia’s Future.
- The Agreement will result in major funding and structural changes to the NSW health system that will further improve the quality and accessibility of health services.
- In May, June and July, NSW Health conducted an extensive consultation process with health professionals across the State, seeking their input into developing suitable boundaries for the new Local Health Networks, which will replace Area Health Services under the national reform.
- That feedback was used to develop proposed network boundaries, outlined in a Discussion Paper released by the NSW Premier on 5 August. This opened a further and final round of consultation which attracted almost 400 submissions.
- Those submissions, along with advice from a number of senior clinicians, has informed the configuration of a new health system structure in NSW. The outcome was confirmation of 15 geographically-based network’s (eight metropolitan and seven regional), three specialist networks (a Children’s Network, Forensic Mental Health and St Vincent’s).

### Chairperson recruitment and accountabilities

- An Expression of Interest for Chairpersons for the Local Health Network Governing Councils was advertised across NSW and applications closed on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010.
- The Chairperson role is to provide leadership to the Governing Council, communicate with government and the community served by the network, and also have direct involvement in appointing the Governing Council members.
- The Chair will lead Governing Councils who are responsible for:
  - Establishing and overseeing an effective governance and risk management framework for the network, and setting its strategic directions;
  - Ensuring high standards of professional and ethical conduct are maintained, involving providers and the community in decisions that affect them;
  - Monitoring the service delivery and financial performance of the network against its targets and;
  - Holding the Chief Executive accountable for their performance.
- The Chair of Governing Councils will start work immediately. It was important to appoint the Chair first so they can play a role in the appointment of Governing Council members, which is the next step in implementing the historic national health reforms.

### Chairs of Governing Councils

- The 15 Chairs announced today will manage the geographically-based networks. The arrangements being put in place for the specialty networks are as follows.
  - Sydney Children's Hospitals Network – transitional provisions allow the recently appointed Advisory Council, chaired by Mr Roger Corbett, to become a governing council
  - St Vincent's Hospital – amendments to the Health Services Act allow for the establishment of this specialist network with an independent board, as is currently the case.
  - Forensic Mental Health Specialist Network – operational arrangements for this network are currently being finalised.

## **CHAIRS OF LOCAL HEALTH NETWORK GOVERNING COUNCILS**

### **Sydney**

#### **Hon. Ron Phillips**

The Hon. Ron Phillips served as a Member of Parliament in the NSW Legislative Assembly from 1984 to 1999 spanning 15 years. During this time Mr Phillips was Minister for Health for five years before becoming Deputy Leader of the New South Wales Liberal Party. After leaving politics in 1999, Mr Phillips developed a successful consulting business in the Health and Aged Care industry providing strategic and detailed advice to Government and to a broad range of business clients. Mr Phillips is currently part owner and Managing Director of the Sydney Breast Clinic Pty Ltd and SBC Research Pty Ltd. He is also Chairman of the Sydney Institutes for Health and Medical Research.

### **Western Sydney**

#### **Professor Stephen Leeder**

Stephen Leeder is a Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, School of Public Health at the University of Sydney. He is also a Director of the Australian Health Policy Institute.

Professor Leeder is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians, a Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. He was the Foundation Professor of Community Medicine at the University of Newcastle (1976 to 1985), and played a major role in the development of its innovative medical curriculum. He was also the Foundation Director of the Rockefeller Asian and Pacific Centre for Clinical Epidemiology.

He was recently awarded medals by the Public Health Association Australian and the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association in recognition of his contribution to public health and health policy. Professor Leeder's special areas of interest in health policy include research into systems of healthcare delivery that provide equitable care for patients with serious and continuing illness, and on health prevention.

### **Central Coast**

#### **Paul Tonkin**

Paul Tonkin is a partner of Tonkin Drysdale Partners, a law firm on the Central Coast. Mr Tonkin's area of legal practice includes commercial and business advice and leasing. Mr Tonkin is the current Deputy Chair of the Northern Sydney Area Health Advisory Council and was Deputy Chair of the former Central Coast Area Health Service Board. Mr Tonkin was also the founding Director of the Central Coast Regional Chamber of Commerce.

### **South Western Sydney**

#### **Professor Phillip John Harris AM**

Professor Phillip Harris is a leading specialist in Cardiology as Head of the Department at Royal Prince Alfred and Clinical Co-Director of the Cardiovascular Service of the Sydney South West Area Health Service. He is a Clinical Professor at the Central Clinical School, University of Sydney. Professor Harris is a member of the Independent Panel on the implementation of 'Caring Together', and was previously the President of the National Heart Foundation of NSW (NSW Division) and the Deputy National President of the National Heart Foundation. Professor Harris is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians, the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. Professor Harris was awarded an Order of Australia in 2009.

### **South Eastern Sydney**

#### **Hon. Morris Iemma**

The Hon. Morris Iemma served as a Member of Parliament in the NSW Legislative Assembly for over 17 years from May 1991 until September 2008. He held a number of Ministerial portfolios including Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Health, Minister for Sport recreation, Minister for Public Works and Services, Minister for State Development and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship. He has a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Technology. Mr Iemma is currently the Chair of the Cancer Institute Board.

**Illawarra Shoalhaven****Associate Professor Denis King OAM**

Professor Denis King is a leading specialist in colorectal disease with extensive clinical practice in the public health system. Professor King has held a range of senior clinical positions including Director of the Division of Surgery at St George Hospital. He is currently Co-Chair of the NSW Health Strengthening Local Decision Making Implementation Group in this role providing clinical leadership. Professor King's current appointments include VMO Colorectal unit, St George Hospital since 1977, Clinical Associate Professor University of NSW.

**Southern NSW****Evelyn Bosak**

Ms Bosak has over 25 years employment experience in the accounting, finance, corporate strategy and governance areas both in Australia in public administration and private sector and overseas. Ms Bosak has her own consulting business Governance Asia Pty Ltd, a private company dedicated to improving governance in the public sector. Ms Bosak's previous employment included World Bank (1999 to 2007), Lend Lease (1989 – 1992) and Commonwealth Funds Management (1989 1992). Ms Bosak is a member of The ANZAC Health and Medical Research Institute, Commonwealth Department of Environment Audit and Risk Committee and Independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee NSW Department of Community Services.

**Nepean Blue Mountains****Associate Professor Patrick Charles Cregan**

Associate Professor Cregan is a specialist General Surgeon with a particular interest in endocrine, bariatric and endoscopic surgery, and laparoscopic surgery. Associate Professor Cregan is the Program Director of Surgery, Clinical Director of Surgery and Anaesthetics Network, Western Cluster, Sydney West Area Health Service, and Head of the Breast and Endocrine Unit at Nepean Hospital. Associate Professor Cregan is a Member of the Board of Directors of the NSW Cancer Institute and NSW Cancer Council. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training (IMET).

**Northern Sydney****Professor Carol Pollock**

Professor Carol Pollock trained as a specialist in renal medicine, was appointed as lecturer to Royal North Shore Hospital in 1991 and the Professorial Chair of Medicine in 2000. Carol is the current Chair of the Area Health Advisory Council for the Northern Sydney Central Coast AHS and Chair of the Boards of the Clinical Excellence Commission and the Agency for Clinical Innovation. She is a founding director and currently Chairperson of Bio Med North, a company supporting the development of intellectual property out of Area Health Services, and sits on the boards of several philanthropic organisations supporting medical research.

**Hunter New England****Associate Professor Lynette Fragar AO**

Associate Professor Lyn Fragar is the Research Leader and former Director of the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, a research centre of the University of Sydney. Associate Professor Fragar is the current Chair of the Hunter and New England Area Health Advisory Council. Associate Professor Fragar has been a Director of the Board of Directors GP Synergy Registrar Training Service, nominated to the position by the University of Sydney. Associate Professor Fragar was awarded an Order of Australia for pioneering service to rural health care and farm safety issues in Australia.

**Western NSW****Dr Robin Williams**

Dr Williams is a General Practitioner VMO at Molong and Yeoval. Dr Williams commenced as a Resident Medical Officer at Dubbo Base Hospital in Australia in 1985, emigrating to Australia from the United Kingdom and settling in Gulgong in 1997. Dr Williams has been a member of the Greater Western Area Health Advisory Council for over 4 years. He has been a General Practitioner VMO to Molong Health Service and Yeoval UPA since 2007, and prior to that was a GP VMO at Gulgong Health Service. He is Chairman of the Dubbo/Plains Division of General Practice and a Board Director of the NSW Rural Doctors Network since 2003.

**Mid North Coast****Warren Grimshaw AM**

Mr Grimshaw has extensive senior experience in public administration. He has been a CEO of a government agency for 15 years where he demonstrated leadership and strategic vision in the formulation and implementation of Government Policy and responsible for coordination of strategic policy across schools, TAFE and higher education.

Mr Grimshaw has an extensive knowledge of health issues and was actively involved with the development of policies in Nurse Education. Mr Grimshaw is a member of the NSW TAFE Commission Board, Chair of the North Coast TAFE Institute Advisory Council, and Chair of the NCAHS Audit and Risk Committee.

**Northern NSW****Hazel Bridgett**

Ms Hazel Bridgett's qualifications include nursing and education. Ms Bridgett has extensive experience on government and non government Boards and Councils including as the current Chair of the North Coast Area Health Advisory Council, a member of the NSW Health Care Advisory Council, and the Caring Together Leadership Group. Ms Bridgett represents Legacy Australia Council on the National Health Agenda and Community Care forum of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Aged Care Alliance. Ms Bridgett was a former member of the Board of the Northern Rivers Area Health Service.

**Murrumbidgee****Lynda Summers**

Ms Lynda Summers is a Partner with Galbraith and Co (a professional advisory firm that specialises in the communications, information technology and media industries with a particular focus on the key aspects of broadband access networks and mobility). A former local government Councillor, Lynda has broad experience in public administration and been involved in policy development and strategic planning for government, especially for regional communities. Lynda has extensive Board and Council experience, was the former Chairperson of the Greater Murray Health Service Board and is currently the Chair of the Regional Communities Consultative Council which reports to the NSW Premier and the Minister for Rural Affairs in the development of regional policy.

**Far West****Dr Stephen Flecknoe-Brown**

Dr Stephen Flecknoe-Brown has 30 years of experience in a specialist haematology practice. He is the current Chair of the Greater Western Area Health Advisory Council and a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Dr Flecknoe-Brown is Director, Cancer and Palliative Care Clinical Network, Greater Western Area Health Service, a Visiting Physician and Director of Clinical Training at Broken Hill Base Hospital, Chairman of the Medical Staff Council Broken Hill Health Service and a senior lecturer with the Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney.