



22 May 2009

New Executive Medical Director recruitment begins at HNE Health

NSW Minister for Health John Della Bosca today announced that recruitment is underway to appoint Executive Medical Directors at Hunter New England Health.

Mr Della Bosca said the recruitment of Executive Medical Directors would improve local decision making and support innovative new models of care in the hospital.

“The introduction of Executive Medical Directors across all Area Health Services is part of the NSW Government’s Health Action Plan in response to the Garling Report,” Mr Della Bosca said.

There will be two Executive Medical Director positions for Hunter New England Health hospitals – a 0.5 full time position for the Acute Network of hospitals* and a 0.5 full time position for the Primary and Community Network of hospitals*.

Commissioner Garling noted in his Report that the divide between management and clinicians needed to be overcome.

The new position of Executive Medical Director will help this by:

- Championing innovation in clinical practice, safety and quality;
- Working with other clinicians and groups such as Medical Staff Councils, to ensure they are contributing to improvements in clinical care and patient safety;
- Providing a key contact for local management on clinical issues.

“The Executive Medical Directors will strengthen local decision making and help foster uptake of clinical innovations,” Mr Della Bosca explained.

“This is an opportunity to capture the skills and leadership qualities of our senior clinicians, strengthening the decision-making process and improving the patient care support team at the local level where it counts most.

“Commissioner Garling acknowledged NSW Health doctors, nurses and clinical staff are amongst the most well-trained, skilled, caring and dedicated professionals in the country.

“By adopting this measure, the NSW Government is demonstrating its commitment to enhancing the safety and quality of patient care through strengthening and improving communication between health care teams and management.”

Caring Together: The Health Action Plan for NSW initiatives is only the beginning of important changes to deliver improved patient care and safety across the State now and into the future.

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“Stage two – to be implemented towards the end of this year - will involve a progress report and further sustainable changes to link health services to community need, the available skilled workforce and resources,” the Minister said.

“Stage three will be an intergenerational plan for the future which will start in 18 months time.

“There will be regular public reporting on progress,” Mr Della Bosca added.

Note to media:

** HNE Health Acute Network of hospitals include John Hunter, John Hunter Children’s, Royal Newcastle Centre, Belmont Hospital, Calvary Mater Newcastle, Maitland, Manning, Tamworth and Armidale Hospitals.*

**HNE Health Primary and Community Networks include the District Health Services, Community Hospitals, Multi Purpose Services and Community Health Centres throughout HNE Health.*

For more information, visit:

http://www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/services_and_facilities

Media Contact: Zoe Arnold 9228 4777 or 0434 568 753