

**INQUIRY INTO THE EXERCISE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF
THE LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT AUTHORITY AND
LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL -
THIRD REVIEW**

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The Hon Christine Robertson MLC
Committee Chair
Legislative Council Standing Committee
on Law and Justice
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Robertson

Tenth review of the Motor Vehicles Accident Authority (MAA) and the Motor Accidents Council (MAC) and the Third review of the LTCSA and LTCSAC.

I refer to your invitation to the NSW Department of Health to make a submission in respect of the Tenth Review of the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) and the Motor Accidents Council (MAC) and the third review of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (LTCSA) and the Lifetime Care and Support Advisory Council (LTCSAC).

The Department's submission is attached for your reference. Please note that the Department's submission has no comment to make in respect of the Tenth Review of the MAA and the MAC.

I understand that you have already received submissions from the Agency for Clinical Innovation and Health Support Services which represent a range of clinical issues. The Department's submission focuses on the NSW Health Review of the Impact of Lifetime care and Support, the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and reporting processes.

Any queries you may have in relation to the submission of the Agency for Clinical Innovation, Health Support Services or the Department should be forwarded to my office to ensure effective and timely coordination of a response.

The person to contact at the NSW Department of Health for further information or assistance is Cathrine Lynch, Director, Primary Health and Community Partnerships, on 9391 9919 or at clync@doh.health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Professor Debora Picone AM
Director-General

1/1/10

**Department of Health submission to the tenth Annual Review of the
Motor Accidents Authority and Council
and the third Annual Review of the
Lifetime Care and Support Authority and Advisory Council**

This submission focuses primarily on issues associated with the Review of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority and Advisory Council. NSW Health has no comment to make in relation to the Review of the Motor Accidents Authority. Arrangements in relation to compulsory third party insurance are well established and operating well.

NSW HEALTH REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THE LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT SCHEME

Clinicians representing the Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce raised their concerns about the administration of Lifetime Care and Support (LTCS) Scheme revenue and the process for allocating funds in submissions and testimony to the Second Annual Review of the Lifetime Care and Support Authority. In response the NSW Department of Health undertook to review the impact of the Scheme. The Standing Committee recommended that the Department of Health consider the comments of clinicians and other stakeholders who gave testimony and to provide the results of the review as soon as they become available.

A survey was forwarded to Area Health Service Chief Executives requesting information on administrative processes for LTCS revenue and the impact of the scheme on administrative and clinical processes. The survey tool reflected issues raised during the Second Annual Review of the LTCS Authority. In total, seven responses were received. A copy of the NSW Health Review was forwarded to the Standing Committee in March 2010.

The review found that some Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Services experienced difficulties administering revenue from the scheme. These difficulties were related to new and more stringent requirements of the LTCS which NSW Health systems were not designed to meet. It was identified that upgraded financial systems are being rolled out in each Area Health Service. The upgraded systems have the potential to better meet the administrative requirements of LTCS.

The Agency for Clinical Innovation has also reported that some LTCS processes have been streamlined to minimise the impact on clinical workloads.

The Agency for Clinical Innovation, the Department of Health and the Lifetime Care and Support Authority will continue to work together to ensure processes are appropriately aligned to maximise health outcomes for scheme participants.

INQUIRY INTO A NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

The Productivity Commission has commenced an Inquiry into a National Disability Insurance Scheme. The proposed National Disability Long-term Care and Support Scheme may operate in a similar way to the NSW Lifetime Care and Support Scheme and the NSW Compulsory Third Party Insurance Scheme.

The coverage of these schemes currently operating in NSW is narrower than what is anticipated for the proposed National Scheme. Eligibility under the proposed National Scheme would be based on functional impairment and include disabilities which result from any type of trauma, injury, genetic disorders, congenital abnormalities, intellectual disability, mental illness and physical conditions.

An Issue Paper is anticipated in May and a response from the NSW Government is to be prepared in June 2010. NSW Health will contribute to the NSW Government's response.

REPORTING PROCESSES

The Department of Health is involved in reporting activity (i.e. bed days and occasions of service) and invoicing under the Bulk Billing Agreement with the Motor Accident's Authority and the LTCS Authority. These processes are working well and NSW Health are implementing a number of improvements in these reporting processes.

Submission authorised by:

Cathrine Lynch

Director, Primary Health and Community Partnerships Branch

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