

# HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1997

## AGENCY FOR CLINICAL INNOVATION

### DETERMINATION OF FUNCTIONS

Pursuant to section 53 of the *Health Services Act 1997*, I, CARMEL TEBBUTT, Minister for Health, do hereby determine, in addition to those functions set out in section 12 of the Health Services Act, the following role and functions for the Agency for Clinical Innovation (the Agency):

#### **Role**

The role and purpose of the Agency is to work with other public health organisations to improve healthcare for patients and the public by rapidly developing and spreading new ways of caring for patients which represent evidence-based best practice.

The Agency will develop and support the implementation of standards for care and treatment of people with specific diseases and conditions commonly presenting to NSW public health services, to enhance and improve the effectiveness, safety and cost effectiveness of that care and treatment.

The standards will be developed using the expertise of NSW Health's doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, managers, and the wider community including patients and carers, industry and the academic world.

Subject to the annual performance agreement of the Agency under section 126 of the Act, the initial work program of the Agency is to focus on development and implementation of standards for the care and treatment of heart attack, hypertension, cataracts, diabetes, kidney disease, stroke, lung disease, hip fracture, delirium, severe infection, management of severe chronic back pain, management of degenerative joint disease, dementia, severe chronic disease, the undertaking of hysterectomies, and supporting implementation of standards for interventional cardiac procedures.

#### **Functions**

- (1)(a) In respect of unexceptional surgical interventions, and common diseases or syndrome treatment modalities encountered in NSW public health services to work with area health services and other public health organisations, their clinicians and managers, and other appropriate individuals and organisations:
    - (i) to identify, review, and, where appropriate, modify or enhance; or
    - (ii) to research and prepare,  
  
standard evidence-based clinical protocols or models of care guidelines which will reduce inappropriate clinical variation and enhance and improve the effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of the patient care that clinicians provide; and
  - (b) to support area health services and other public health organisations in ensuring the implementation of those standard evidence-based protocols or models of care guidelines.
- (2) To investigate, identify, design, cost and recommend for implementation on a state-wide basis, changes in clinical practice, including the content and method of such practice, which will reduce inappropriate clinical variation and enhance and

improve the effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of the patient care that clinicians provide.

- (3) To support appropriate clinician networks, taskforces and clinical practice groups to assist in undertaking the Agency's functions and to involve patients, carers and other members of the community in the work of the Agency.
- (4) To provide advice to the Department of Health and public health organisations on matters relating to changes in clinical practice which will enhance and improve the effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of the patient care in the public health system.
- (5) To report to, and advise, the Director-General of the Department of Health and Minister for Health on matters in respect of the exercise of its functions and to prepare an annual report to the Minister on its progress.

Signed at Sydney this 7<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER 2009



Carmel Tebbutt  
**Minister for Health**