



## **Standing Council on Health** (meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council)

**COMMUNIQUE**  
**20 August 2012**

### **HEALTH MINISTERS ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENTS TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY**

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) is very pleased to announce new appointments and reappointments of members to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation (AHPRA) Agency Management Committee. The vacancies arise as a result of the expiry of terms of the inaugural appointments as made by the Ministerial Council in 2009. The appointments are made in accordance with the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory.

The Ministerial Council acknowledged the high standard of applications received. The five sitting members have been reappointed and three new members have been added to this important committee, increasing its membership to eight. A short biography of each member is attached to this communiqué.

The new terms of appointment commence on 3 September 2012 and are as follows:

- Mr Peter Allen has been reappointed as Chair for 12 months
- Professor Genevieve Gray has been reappointed for 12 months
- Professor Merrilyn Walton has been reappointed for two years
- Mr Michael Gorton AM and Professor Constantine (Con) Michael AO are reappointed for three years.

The Ministerial Council expressed thanks for the highly valued contribution of all reappointed members, in particular the contribution of the Chair, Mr Peter Allen who has been reappointed for a further 12 months.

Reflecting the Ministerial Council's desire to ensure renewal of the Agency Management Committee on an ongoing basis, Ministers adopted the principle of staggered appointments and appointed three new members for a period of three years, also from 3 September 2012.

These new members are:

- Mr Ian Smith, Chief Executive of the Western Australia Country Health Service;
- Ms Fran Thorn, former Secretary of the Department of Health Victoria; and
- Ms Karen Crawshaw, Deputy Director-General, New South Wales Health.

Ministers welcomed the AHPRA Agency Management Committee new members to their roles and wished them well over the coming years in strengthening and guiding the work of AHPRA in further embedding the safe delivery of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, for the benefit of all Australians.

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**INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Mr Peter Allen, Chair, Victoria**

Mr Peter Allen is the Chair of AHPRA's Agency Management Committee and has been since March 2009. Mr Allen is Deputy Dean of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG), and Victoria's Public Sector Standards Commissioner. He joined ANZSOG after more than 20 years in the Victorian Public Service during which time he held several positions including Under Secretary in the Department of Human Services; Victoria's Chief Drug Strategy Officer; Secretary of the Department of Tourism, Sport and the Commonwealth Games; Secretary of the Department of Education; Director of Schools; and Deputy Secretary, Community Services. Between 2001 and 2003, Mr Allen was a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne, and prior to joining the public service, he was Director of Social Policy and Research at The Brotherhood of St Laurence. Mr Allen holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Journalism and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001.

**Mr Michael Gorton AM, Victoria**

Mr Michael Gorton was appointed to the Agency Management Committee in March 2009 as a member with business and administrative expertise. Mr Gorton is a commercial lawyer with considerable experience providing legal advice on medical registration, training, education and administrative practice. As a principal of Russell Kennedy Solicitors, he has significant experience in business management and administration. He is a Board member of Melbourne Health (Royal Melbourne Hospital). He is a former Chair of the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission and former Chair of the Code of Conduct Committee of Medicines Australia. Mr Gorton is the Chair of the Patient Review Panel (Victoria) and chairs the Minister's Expert Panel to review health complaints legislation in Victoria. He has extensive experience in governance for a wide range of organisations including health and ethics committees. Mr Gorton holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce. In 2004, Mr Gorton received the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for community service.

**Professor Genevieve Gray, Queensland**

Professor Gray was appointed to the Agency Management Committee in March 2009 as a member with expertise in health or education and training. Professor Gray is Professor of Nursing and Scholar in Residence at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Professor Emeritus University of Alberta and Adjunct Professor at James Cook University. In recent years she has been a Nurse Scholar for the World Health Organization, Geneva, and worked in Canada as a Professor of Nursing, Dean & Director, WHO Collaborating Centre in Nursing & Mental Health for the University of Alberta and the World Health Organization. She is currently Director of QUT's Vietnam Nursing Capacity Building Program. Professor Gray was previously Inaugural Chair of the International Academic Nursing Alliance, a member of the Multidisciplinary Board of the International Council of Women's Health Issues and member of the Deans Council, General Faculties Committee and Health Sciences Council of the University of Alberta. Professor Gray has a General Nursing Certificate, Midwifery Certificate, diplomas in Nursing Education and Advanced Nursing Studies, a Master of Science (Nursing) and a Distinguished Life Fellowship from the Royal College of Nursing Australia.

### **Professor Constantine (Con) Michael AO, Western Australia**

Professor Michael was appointed to the Agency Management Committee in March 2009 as a member with expertise in health, education and training. Professor Michael is the Consultant Medical Advisor for St. John of God Health Care Inc. and Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Western Australia. Professor Michael has been appointed Principal Advisor of medical workforce for the WA Health Department. He is the current President of the Medical Board of Western Australia, a Director of the Australian Medical Council, a member of various State and National Medical Committees, and Chair of the St John of God National Ethics Committee and Chair of the Reproductive Technology Council of Western Australia. He is a Director and Governor of the University of Notre Dame Australia and Chair of its Advisory Board of the School of Medicine Fremantle. Professor Michael holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (UWA), Doctor of Medicine (UWA) and Diploma of Diagnostic Ultrasound. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (a past President) and Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London (a previous Sims Black Professor). Among his numerous awards, Professor Michael was named an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2001 for service to medicine, particularly in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology, as a contributor to the administration of the profession nationally and internationally and medical education.

### **Professor Merrilyn Walton, New South Wales**

Professor Walton was appointed to the Agency Management Committee in March 2009 as a member with business and administrative expertise. Professor Walton is Professor of Medical Education (Patient Safety) in the School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, at the University of Sydney and Visiting Professor and Affiliate of the Buehler Center on Aging, Health and Society, Chicago, USA. Professor Walton is a member of the University of Sydney Academic Board, the NSW Institute for Medical Education and Training and is a member of the Australian Health Ethics Committee (National Health and Medical Research Council). Previously, she was the Commissioner for the Health Care Complaints Commission NSW (1993-2000). Professor Walton holds a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Work, Masters of Social Work and Doctor of Philosophy.

### **Mr Ian Smith, Western Australia**

Mr Smith is an experienced senior health official with a strong track record in delivering the full range of integrated health care services - acute care in hospitals, acute psychiatric mental health, community mental health, public health, community and allied health and aged care. During the past 17 years he has held various senior executive leadership roles in the Pilbara, Kimberley, South West and the Great Southern Regions of Western Australia. In January 2011 he was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the WA Country Health Service which is responsible for delivering the State Government funded public health services throughout rural and remote Western Australia. Mr Smith is appointed to the Agency Management Committee as a member with expertise in health, business and administration.

### **Ms Fran Thorn, Melbourne**

Ms Thorn holds an MA, University of Melbourne, MBA, Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne. Ms Thorn was Secretary of the Department of Health Victoria from August 2009 – January 2012 and has also held the positions as Secretary of the Department of

Human Services, Victoria; the Department of Innovation, Industry & Regional Development, Victoria; and Under Secretary, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria. She is a former Deputy Secretary, Policy & Cabinet, Department of Premier & Cabinet, Victoria' Director, KPMG Consulting, Hong Kong and Australia and has held various senior executive positions within the State Training Board/Department of Education, Victoria; the Public Service Board, Victoria; and Librarian, State Library of Victoria. Ms Thorn is appointed to the Agency Management Committee as a member with expertise in health business and administration, and health education and training experience.

#### **Ms Karen Crawshaw, New South Wales**

Ms Crawshaw of NSW Health holds Bachelor degrees in Arts and Law and was admitted to the NSW Supreme Court in 1979 and subsequently to the High Court. She holds an unrestricted practising certificate from the Law Society of NSW. Ms Crawshaw held legal positions in the State Crown Solicitor's Office and the Premier's Department prior to joining the NSW Department of Health's Legal Branch. In 2007, MsCrawshaw was appointed Deputy Director-General, Health System Support. Following the implementation of the Governance Review in late 2011, Ms Crawshaw was reappointed as Deputy Director-General with responsibility for the Division of Governance, Workforce and Corporate Services. Her areas of accountability cover health workforce planning and industrial relations, business and asset services, communications, corporate governance, and legal and regulatory services. Ms Crawshaw is appointed to the Agency Management Committee as a member with expertise in health business and administration.