

# Overview of Agency

Executive Summary .....	8
2007 Health Facts at a Glance .....	10
Our Purpose .....	11
Our Vision .....	11
Address and Location.....	11
Service Framework .....	12
Compliance Reports .....	14
Statement of Compliance with Public Sector Standards .....	15
Accountable Authority .....	16
Pecuniary Interests .....	16
Senior Officers.....	16
Management Structure .....	17

# Executive Summary



The Department of Health is committed to ensuring healthier, longer and better lives for all Western Australians and protecting the health of our community. We aim to do this by providing a safe, high quality, accountable and sustainable health care system. In 2007-08 the Department has continued to implement a broad-based reform agenda, underpinned by our *Strategic Directions 2005 - 2010* framework. Below is just a small sample of the progress we have made in our six priority areas: healthy workforce; healthy hospitals, health services and infrastructure; healthy partnerships; healthy communities; healthy resources and healthy leadership.

## Healthy workforce

A record 586 new registered nursing graduates commenced with WA Health in 2008 - an increase of 110 on the 2007 recruitment year. In 2007-08, new initiatives were introduced to boost the skills and sustainability of our workforce. These included programs to attract experienced nurses back into the profession, introduction of training for the Assistant in Nursing role and the successful piloting of a program of community residencies for junior doctors. Workforce improvements were also delivered through the completion of the Aged Care Assessment Team quality framework and the delivery of an improved suite of disaster training courses. In these ways and more the Department delivered on its commitment to develop and maintain a skilled, healthy and sustainable workforce to protect and promote the health of the WA community.

## Healthy hospitals, health services and infrastructure

In 2007-08 the Department continued to improve and enhance the quality of our hospitals, infrastructure and health services, with a focus on accessibility, efficiency and responsiveness to community needs. Significant improvements have been made in terms of waiting times for elective surgery at Perth public hospitals and for clinic appointments at metropolitan outpatient clinics. Substantial progress has been made on the improvement and expansion of our hospital infrastructure. The past year saw the completion of the new \$8 million State Major Trauma Unit at Royal Perth Hospital, while the \$115 million expansion of Rockingham-Kwinana Hospital is more than two thirds complete. The upgrade of the Emergency Department at Peel Health Campus has been completed, while emergency department upgrades are underway at Royal

Perth Hospital and Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital. The Department has also made strong progress in our ongoing \$600 million regional infrastructure program. New facilities completed in 2007-08 include the Fitzroy Crossing Hospital and Morawa Health Centre, while upgrades or redevelopments have been completed at Carnarvon Hospital, Derby Hospital and Dental Clinic and Bunbury's Acute Psychiatric Unit.

The past year saw the endorsement of a new model of care for palliative care and ongoing work by the WA Health Aged Care Network on the formulation of service models that specifically include a model of care for dementia. In addition, aged care services in country areas have been enhanced and Transition Care programs introduced in the South West, Mid West and Great Southern regions. Construction of supported, community-based mental health accommodation was completed at Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Geraldton and Kelmscott. In 2007-08 more than 241,000 schoolchildren across WA continued to access free oral health treatment through the school dental program.

## Healthy partnerships

The Department of Health has continued to develop innovative partnerships with non-government organisations, private sector providers, community groups and other government agencies aimed at improving service delivery, boosting research and development and maximising capital investment. Our partnership with the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research has gained international recognition, linking WA's genomics sector with the global genomics industry. There have been significant developments in the Department's collaborative

Aboriginal health partnerships, while the 2007 Mental Health Good Outcomes Awards recognised innovation and excellence across the WA mental health sector.

### Healthy communities

In 2007-08 the Department has continued to work towards improving lifestyles, preventing ill-health and implementing long term, integrated health promotion programs. There has been strong action to combat childhood obesity through the implementation of healthy eating, healthy weight and physical activity programs to be delivered in school and community settings. A number of new initiatives have been established to combat perinatal and postnatal depression and the Australian Better Health Initiative has been progressively implemented at several locations across the state. Falls prevention activities have continued and we have commenced demonstration projects to simplify client access to Home and Community Care services. The Public Health Division has been drafting the new Public Health Bill and has undertaken a number of sexual health initiatives. Licensing infrastructure for tobacco retailers and wholesalers has been established and a statewide compliance program implemented. The Department has improved the health of our workplaces and facilities through implementation of non-smoking and positive food and nutrition policies at WA Health facilities.

### Healthy resources

The Department has continued to deliver robust resource administration, planning and management practices to oversee our health service programs and support the area health services. Disaster preparedness and management arrangements have been enhanced, including through significant upgrades to emergency communication facilities at rural hospitals. Video-conferencing equipment to allow the expansion of tele-psychiatry services has been installed in an additional 58 centres across the state. Health information improvements have included significant progress towards the new WA Cancer Registry information system and preparation for the ongoing monitoring of road safety indicators.

### Healthy leadership

The Department recognises that identifying, nurturing and promoting strong leadership at all levels is vital for the effectiveness of the health system now and into the future. The Institute for Healthy Leadership was established in July 2007. The Institute has already commissioned a number of programs to develop WA Health's future leaders. The Institute's Service Improvement Workshops provide training in the principles and methods of health service improvement. The Emerging Leaders Development Program and the Delivering the Future Leadership Development Program target senior managers and potential future directors and executive directors and provide high-level leadership training. As part of our commitment to fostering leadership at all levels, nine graduate officers were recruited and commenced with the Department in February 2008.

### Conclusion

The report that follows provides more detail on how the Department of Health has worked towards its goal of delivering a healthy WA. None of the achievements detailed below would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of all our staff. I would like to thank each member of our WA Health workforce for their contribution over the past year and reaffirm our commitment to providing a world-class health service to the people of Western Australia.



Dr Peter Flett  
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH

26<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Figure 1: 2007 WA Health facts at a glance

## 2007 WA Health Facts at a Glance

Population we care for	2,082,982
Number of public hospital discharges	387,931
Public discharges in private facilities	79,067
All private hospital discharges not funded or administered by the Department of Health	267,486
All hospital Emergency Department visits	756,704
Numbers of babies born	30,051
Number of same day surgery separations	85,082
Number of overnight surgery separations	120,771
Number of clients receiving Home and Community Care Services	70,694
Inpatient overnight separations for mental health disorders in all public hospitals	13,537
Number of people provided with individual consultations for community public mental health services	37,787
Number of contacts for community public mental health services	541,597

Overview of Agency

## Our Purpose

Our purpose is to ensure healthier, longer and better lives for all West Australians.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to improve and protect the health of West Australians by providing a safe, high quality, accountable and sustainable health care system. We recognise that this care is achieved through an integrated approach to all the components of our health system. These components include workforce, hospitals and infrastructure, partnerships, communities, resources and leadership. We also recognise that the Department of Health must work with a vast number of groups if it is to achieve the vision of a world-class health system.

## Address and Location

Department of Health  
189 Royal Street  
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Ph: (08) 9222 4222  
Fax: (08) 9222 4046

Postal Address  
PO Box 8172, Perth Business Centre  
PERTH WA 6849

Email : [prcontact@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:prcontact@health.wa.gov.au)  
Internet: [www.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.health.wa.gov.au)

# Service Framework

## Better Planning: Better Futures

In September 2006, the State Government of Western Australia released *Better Planning: Better Futures - A Framework for the Strategic Management of the Western Australian Public Sector*.

The framework states that the Western Australian public sector seeks to provide the best opportunities for current and future generations to live better, longer and healthier lives. Its vision is to promote a creative, sustainable and economically successful state that embraces the diversity of its people and values its rich natural resources.

The framework outlines five strategic goals. Broad, high-level government goals are supported at agency level by more specific desired outcomes. The whole of health delivers services to achieve these desired outcomes, which ultimately contribute to meeting the high-level government goals.

### **Goal 1: Better services**

Enhancing the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia by providing high quality, accessible services.

### **Goal 2: Jobs and economic development**

Creating conditions that foster a strong economy, delivering more jobs, opportunities and greater wealth for all West Australians.

### **Goal 3: Lifestyle and environment**

Protecting and enhancing the unique Western Australian lifestyle and ensuring sustainable management of the environment.

### **Goal 4: Regional development**

Ensuring that regional Western Australia is strong and vibrant.

### **Goal 5: Governance and public sector improvement**

Developing and maintaining a skilled, diverse and ethical public sector, serving the Government with consideration of the public interest.

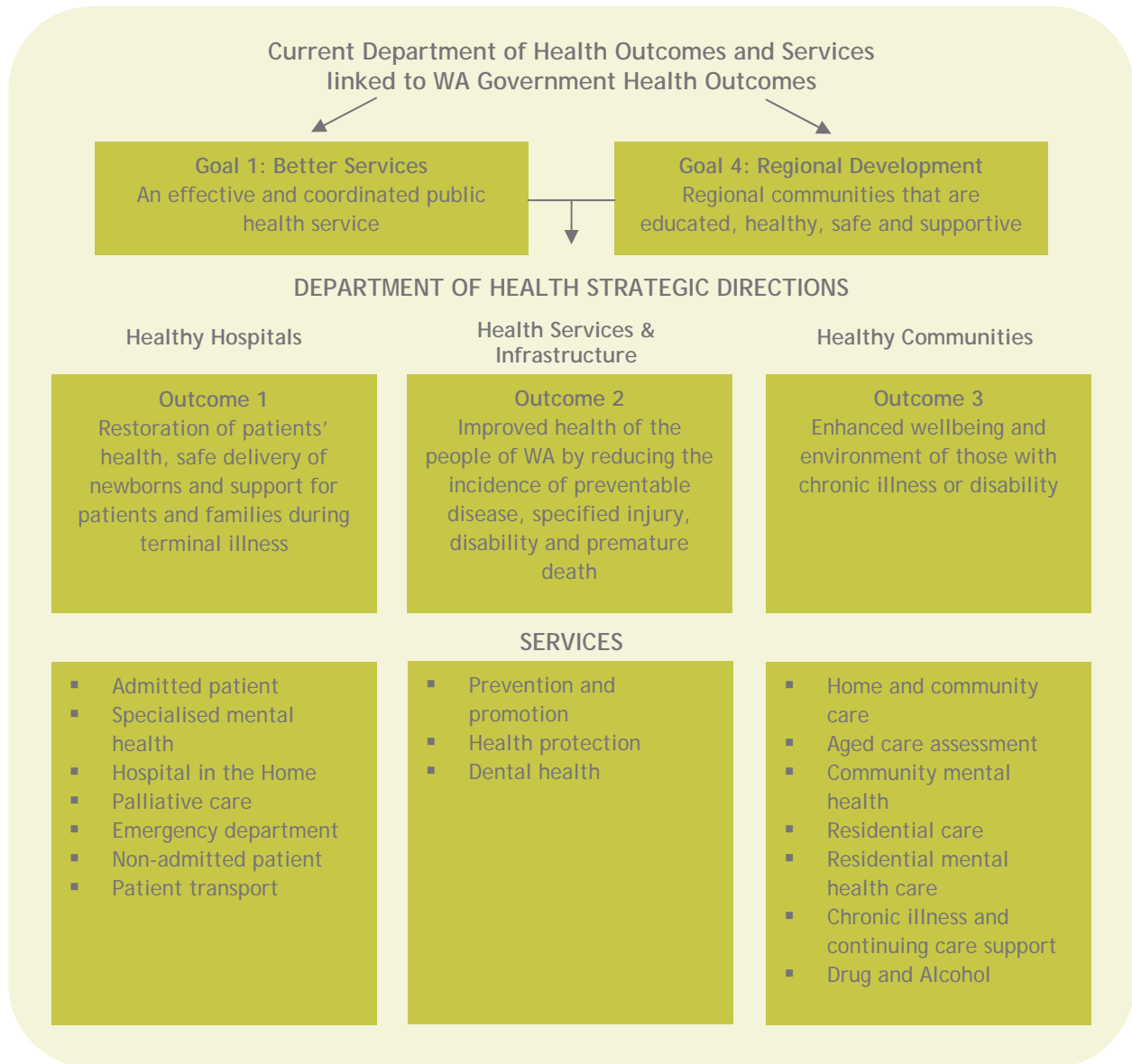
### **WA health outcomes and strategic directions**

WA Health principally contributes to Better Planning: Better Futures - Goals 1 and 4.

Figure 2 shows the relationship between the Government's and WA Health's desired outcomes.

The strategic directions or priority areas of healthy 'hospitals, health services and infrastructure', 'communities' along with 'workforce', 'partnerships', 'resources' and 'leadership' were identified by the Department of Health's senior leadership team in December, 2004 and provide the WA Health framework for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health care provided to West Australians for the period 2005-2010.

Figure 2: Department of Health strategic directions



# Compliance Reports

The Department of Health is established by the Governor under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*. The Director General of Health is responsible to the Minister for Health for the efficient and effective management of the organisation. The Department of Health supports the Minister in the administration of 40 Acts and 101 sets of subsidiary legislation.

## Acts administered

- *Alcohol and Drug Authority Act 1974*
- *Anatomy Act 1930*
- *Animal Resources Authority Act 1981*
- *Blood Donation (Limitation of Liability) Act 1985*
- *Cannabis Control Act 2003*
- *Chiropractors Act 2005*
- *Co-opted Medical and Dental Services for the Northern Portion of the State Act 1951*
- *Cremation Act 1929*
- *Dental Act 1939*
- *Dental Prosthetists Act 1985*
- *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966*
- *Food Act 2008*
- *Health Act 1911*
- *Health Legislation Administration Act 1984*
- *Health Professionals (Special Events Exemption) Act 2000*
- *Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995*
- *Health Services (Quality Improvement) Act 1994*
- *Hospital Fund Act 1930*
- *Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927*
- *Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991*
- *Human Tissue and Transplant Act 1982*
- *Medical Act 1894*
- *Medical Practitioners Act 2008*
- *Medical Radiation Technologists Act 2006*
- *Mental Health Act 1996*
- *Nuclear Waste Storage and Transportation (Prohibition) Act 1999*
- *Nurses and Midwives Act 2006*

- *Occupational Therapists Act 2005*
- *Optometrists Act 2005*
- *Osteopaths Act 2005*
- *Pharmacy Act 1964*
- *Physiotherapists Act 2005*
- *Podiatrists Act 2005*
- *Poisons Act 1964*
- *Psychologists Act 2005*
- *Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Act 1966*
- *Radiation Safety Act 1975*
- *Tobacco Products Control Act 2006*
- *University Medical School Teaching Hospitals Act 1955*
- *White Phosphorous Matches Prohibition Act 1912*

## Acts passed during 2007-08

- *Food Act 2008*
- *Medical Practitioners Act 2008*

## Bills in Parliament as at 30 June 2008

- *Alcohol and Drug Authority Repeal Bill 2005*
- *Dental Bill 2005*
- *Pharmacists Bill 2005*
- *Surrogacy Bill 2006*

## Amalgamation and establishment of Boards

There were no Boards amalgamated or established during 2007-08.

# Statement of Compliance with Public Sector Standards

In the administration of the Department of Health, I have complied with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and the Department of Health Code of Conduct.

I have put in place procedures designed to ensure such compliance and have undertaken appropriate internal processes to satisfy myself that the statement made above is correct.

To ensure consistency with the requirements of the Public Sector Standards and to encourage best practice, regular reviews are undertaken of relevant policies and procedures. The Department's human resources consultants continually monitor compliance on a transaction by transaction basis and occasionally external consultants are requested to undertake breach reviews to gain an independent view of our processes.

The Department of Health provides employees with opportunities to attend selection panel training and endeavours to ensure that selection panels contain at least one person who has received the appropriate training. The Department also participates in compliance audits undertaken by the Internal Audit Branch, conducts employee surveys and exit interviews to gather information regarding public sector standards for human resource management and the application of the Code of Ethics.

During 2007-08 the Department of Health (including Health Corporate Network) received 10 breach claims in relation to recruitment and selection and four for grievance resolution. Seven were resolved internally or withdrawn while seven were referred to the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner (OPSSC) for review and action where appropriate.

## *Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct*

The Public Sector Code of the Ethics and the Department of Health Code of Conduct are available to employees on the intranet site and are provided to all new employees at orientation and induction at which time they are required to acknowledge the Codes. Ethics and conduct awareness raising seminars and workshops are conducted for all employees.

Compliance with the codes is monitored through analysis of employee grievances, complaints and the identification of relevant subject matter. During 2007-08 the Department of Health including the Health Corporate Network received no complaints alleging non-compliance with either the Code of Ethics or the Department of Health Code of Conduct where the complaint required further investigation and/or action following internal review.



Dr Peter Flett  
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH

26<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## Accountable Authority

The Acting Director General of Health, Peter Flett, in his capacity as Chief Executive Officer, is the accountable authority for the Department of Health.

## Pecuniary Interests

Senior officers of the Department of Health have declared no pecuniary interests in 2007-08.

## Senior Officers

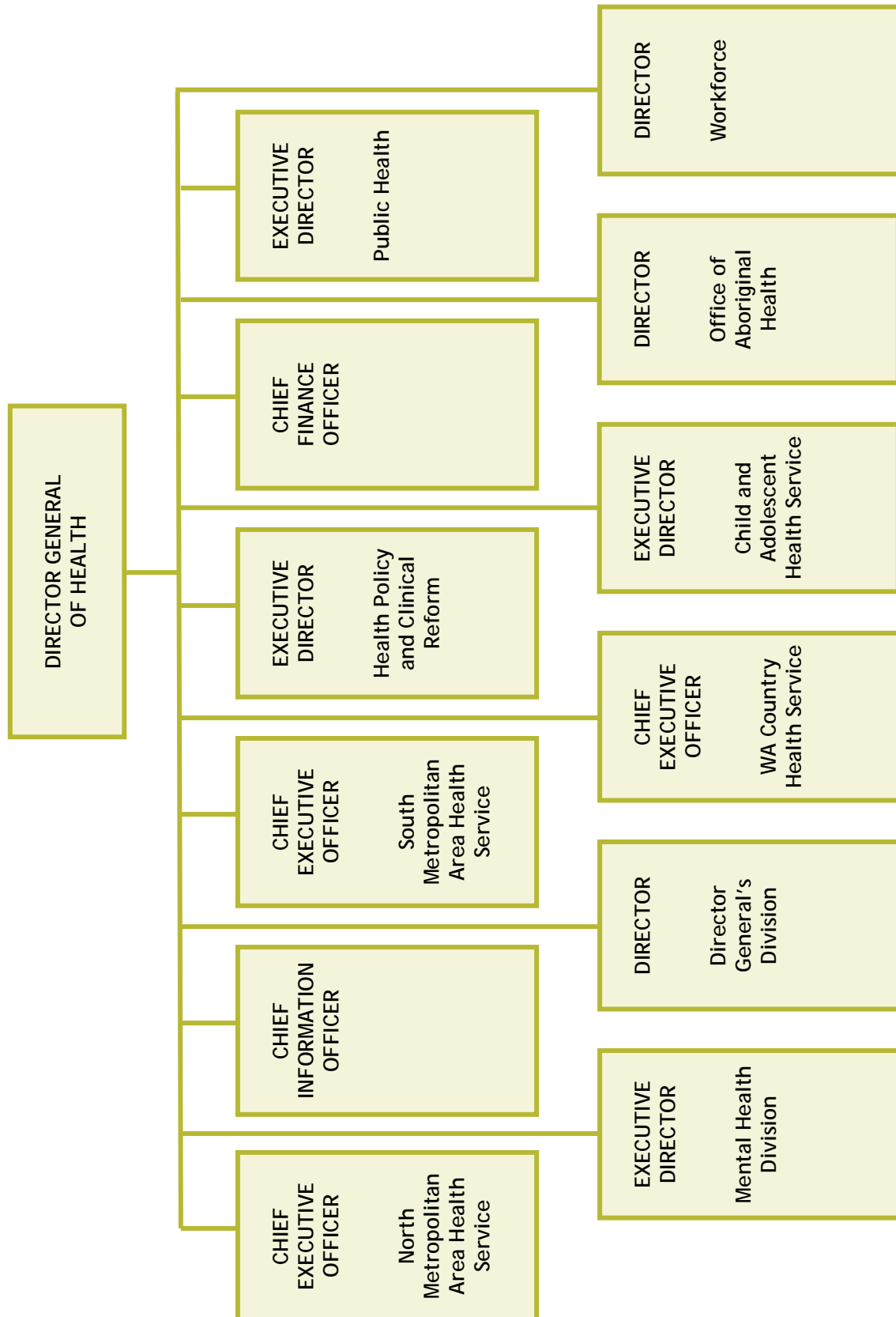
The senior officers for the Department of Health and their areas of responsibility are listed below:

Table 1: Senior officers - Department of Health as at 30 June 2008

Area of responsibility	Title	Name
Department of Health	A/Director General of Health	Peter Flett
Director General's Division	A/Director	Wayne Salvage
Health Information Division	A/Chief Information Officer	Colin Xanthis
Health Finance	Chief Finance Officer	John Leaf
Health Policy and Clinical Reform	Executive Director	Simon Towler
Mental Health Division	Executive Director	Steve Patchett
Public Health	Executive Director	Tarun Weeramanthri
Workforce	A/Director	Elizabeth Rohwedder
Health Corporate Network	General Manager	Bill Bleakley

# Management Structure

Department of Health State Health Executive Forum (June 2008)



Overview of Agency

# Management Structure (continued)

Health Corporate Network (June 2008)

