

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

NEWSLETTER

15/7/2018

CHANGES TO THE GOVERNANCE OF SA HEALTH

Here we go again, not sooner transforming health had ended the new State Government is embarking on reforming SA Health's governance arrangements and has already introduced a Bill into Parliament to amend the Health Care Act (2008) to provide for the establishment of Local Health Network (LHN) Governing Boards.

SA Health conducted a briefing for all affected unions, the AMA, and LHNs this week which the HSU attended.

In essence, the amended Bill aims to set up a governing board for each of 10 LHN's, one state-wide (Women's & Children's Network), three metropolitan LHNs and six regional LHN's. Currently, there is only one rural LHN, so the increase in number of those networks is a significant change.

Attached is a copy of the *Health Care (Governance) Amendment Bill 2018* for your information.

It is still early days yet, and at the moment there are more questions than answers:

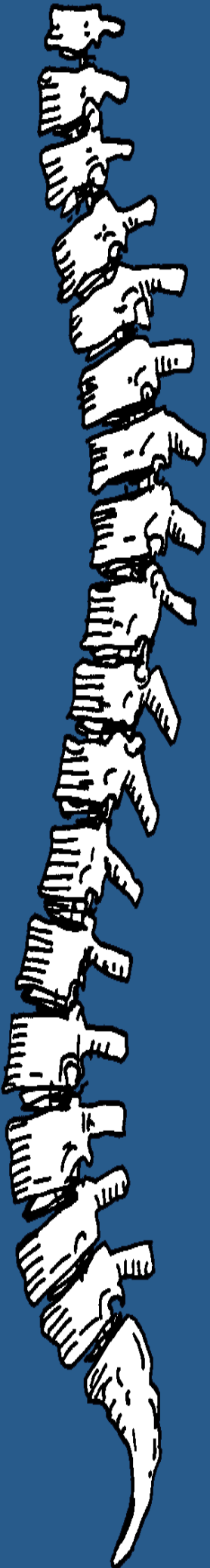
- There are no indicative costings, so a cost/benefit analysis has not been conducted; or so we were told.
- Although some of the responsibilities of the proposed boards are spelt out in the Bill, the powers are not addressed at all.
- Funding arrangements, budgetary control, who sets policy and how, interactions and consistency between networks are not all clear.
- Will the LHN, the new Board or the Department of Health and Ageing CEO be the employer?

Currently, the employer is the CEO of Department of Health and Ageing.

A cynic might suggest that Boards provide a useful buffer between health service delivery problems (and we all know they manifold e.g. chronic resourcing shortages) and Government.

Regardless of our caution about the proposal for LHN Boards, the passing parade of imported CEO's has led up to where we are now. Chaos, confusion, uncertainty and disillusion. The ongoing uncertainty is fuelled by every new CEO having a new set of ideas different from predecessors, then unsettling the workforce with their vision of a brave new world.

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It could be argued that a (properly constructed) governing board could mitigate this change-for-change's sake by providing overarching consistency in terms of organisational philosophy.

However, as previously stated, the question as to who will be the employer, the LHN?, the new Board? or the Department of Health and Ageing CEO? needs to be answered as the answers to these questions has critical industrial ramifications to your conditions of employment.

Whether the HSU should actively campaign for to support Local Health Network Boards or not will be determined in conjunction with HSU members.

WHAT ABOUT STATE-WIDE SERVICES

Although other State-wide services such as SAMI, SA Pathology, Pharmacy and SA Dental are not included in the Bill, the Government reported that governance arrangements will be clarified at some point this year.

If you have any queries, please email to info@hsusant.org.au or call Jorge Navas on 8279 2255.



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