

**Review of
Northern Territory
Department of Health and
Community Services**

Amazon Room
First Floor, Health House
87 Mitchell Street,
Darwin
PO Box 40596
CASUARINA NT 0811
http://www.nt.gov.au/health/dept_review

REVIEW UPDATE No 2

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The Review of the Department of Health and Community Services is now in its tenth week. The Review team is continuing to gather information from people both within the Department and in other organisations as part of this consultation phase of the Review. I was pleased that the first Update encouraged many more of you to contact the team and either make submissions or appointments to see one of the Review team members.

I am aware that people are interested in the backgrounds of the members of the Review team, and so attached to this Update is an overview of myself, Michael Clarke and Bernie McKay.

We will be continuing to gather information for the Review before we progress any conclusions and recommendations, and further meetings with both Departmental staff and non-government organisations are scheduled over the coming weeks.

If you are interested in making a submission, I would encourage you to do so by COB Friday August 30. You can either email this through to the internal email address Resource Team THS, access the Review intranet or internet sites: (internal.health.nt.gov.au or www.nt.gov.au/health/dept_review)

send a hard copy to the Review Team, Amazon Room Health House or phone **8999 2410**.

The Team will be using these submissions and the information gathered from meetings to move to the next phase of the review which will be consolidating this information and identifying key issues which it can test with both internal and external stakeholders prior to finalising the Report.

Alan Bansemer

Who are the consultants?

Alan Bansemer

Mr Alan Bansemer has had an outstanding career in public sector health administration. He has worked in both State and Commonwealth jurisdictions and held senior Executive management positions in both. Since leaving the public sector, Alan has been invited to act as a consultant to government and non-government health and community services organisations in Australia and overseas.

Alan worked in the South Australian Health Commission from 1975 until 1985. He gained a wide range of experience across the department, working in, and then having responsibility for, Hospitals, Policy and Finance, and Policy and Projects Divisions, ultimately becoming the Deputy Chairman of the Commission in 1985.

He then moved to the Commonwealth Department of Health as the First Assistant Secretary, Health Services Financing Division, where he was responsible for a range of key initiatives including Casemix, the Medical and Pharmaceutical Benefits Schemes, HIV/AIDS prevention strategies, as well as negotiating the first Medicare Agreement. In 1987, Alan was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services, with responsibility for the Health sector activities of the Department, as well for Child Care and Disability Services.

In 1995, Alan became the Commissioner of Health in Western Australia and Head of the Health Department of Western Australia, positions he held until 2001. In this time he introduced telehealth into the department, reformed the Metropolitan Health Services, and instigated a greater emphasis on remote, rural and Aboriginal health services.

Michael Clarke

Michael Clarke has had a long and varied public sector background, having spent 30 years working within State, Commonwealth and United Nations agencies, and over five years as a senior consultant to government and non-government agencies and to the private sector.

Michael was Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet and Head of the Public Service, Tasmania from 1989 to 1992. In this role he had managerial responsibility for his own Department and for the “whole-of-government” coordination of the other Tasmanian Government Departments and Agencies, as well as for a major public sector and budget reform program.

In 1992, Michael was appointed as the General Manager, Corporate Policy and Government Relations Division in the Commonwealth Department of Administrative Services, with responsibility for program development, research and evaluation. Between 1994 and 1997 Michael was the Acting Secretary and Deputy Secretary (Corporate) within the Commonwealth Department of Administrative Services. He was responsible for: the management of the Departmental corporate program and of the Divisions and Regions allocated to him; strategic realignment of various Commonwealth-owned DAS businesses; management of and accountability for the Department’s annual budget, its financial and resource management, and its audit program; and coordination of the Department’s interface with the Federal Minister, the Cabinet and the Commonwealth Parliament.

Michael has also had significant experience in the health and community services sector, both in Australia and internationally. In the 1980s, Michael was the First Assistant Secretary in the Commonwealth Department of Health, with specific responsibilities for health advancement and public health. His key achievements in this role include his work in developing Australia’s national response to HIV/AIDS, and in particular, the successful implementation of the “Grim Reaper” campaign to minimise the spread of HIV/AIDS in Australia. Michael has also worked as a Consultant to United Nations agencies (including the World Health Organisation, the World Bank and the UN Development Program) on evaluation of country-level HIV/AIDS coordination and

service delivery in Africa and South America, as well as to the Health Department of WA on innovative service delivery models and corporate management and governance.

Bernie McKay

Bernie McKay has unique experience in the health area at a Federal, State, Regional and Territorial level, as both an administrator and a consultant. During the 70s and 80s he was responsible for successful initiatives, which are nationally and internationally recognised in health service integration, cost containment, health promotion and national policy.

As head of the Health Departments in New South Wales and South Australia, he demonstrated the capacity to introduce effective and efficient administration in difficult circumstances. In both cases the positions were created to replace existing organisations, which had failed to meet government requirements.

In 1972, Bernie spent ten months seconded as Deputy-Director of the NT Health Services. During this time, he was responsible for its planning, financial and administrative functions, and developed a good understanding of the difficulties and challenges facing health services provision in the NT.

In 1984 Bernie was appointed Director-General of the Commonwealth Health Department and changed its direction from a bureaucratic process to one of national health policy. Major initiatives in public health, illness prevention, health promotion, health financing and national health policy resulted. Notable among these was the Better Health Commission.

In 1987, after declining an offer to act as the head of the amalgamated Commonwealth Community Services and Health Department, Bernie formed his own consulting company and has since been providing consulting services to the Federal and State Governments and the private sector. He has developed a very successful practice based on providing practical solutions with hands-on involvement in negotiation and implementation.

Bernie has maintained his involvement in the Australian Public Health Sector through Chairmanship of the Northern Sydney Metropolitan Area Health Service in NSW.