

Question on Notice
No. 2
Asked on 13 February 2013

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

Under the new Health and Hospital Network –

- (1) Is the board restricted to hiring and terminating the CEO?
- (2) Is the board expected to provide direction in relation to the range of services each hospital in the health area will be funded to provide?
- (3) Does the Director-General of Health, the CEO of each board, or the board, decide the funding each hospital will be allocated?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Gladstone for her question.

A Hospital and Health Board may appoint and terminate the employment of the Hospital and Health Service's health executives. This includes the Health Service Chief Executive and the Service's other health executives on a contract of employment under section 67 of the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (the Act).

It should be noted though that the appointment and termination of a Health Service Chief Executive by a Hospital and Health Board is subject to my approval, as the Minister for Health.

A Hospital and Health Board may also engage contractors or consultants under section 20(1)(c) of the Act.

Under section 30 of the Act, a Hospital and Health Board may delegate this power to a committee of the Board if all of the members of the committee are Board members, to the executive committee established by the Board or to the Health Service Chief Executive.

The 2013-16 Service Agreements are being negotiated between the Director-General of the Department of Health and each Hospital and Health Board, in accordance with section 37 of the Act. The negotiations include consideration of the services to be provided by the Hospital and Health Service based on historical and identified health needs, the amount of funding available to provide the services and the level of investment in new initiatives.

The Director-General, through the Service Agreements, is responsible for the allocation of monies to Hospital and Health Services. The Hospital and Health Board is then responsible for how that money is used across the Hospital and Health Service, including the allocation of funding to specific hospitals and facilities, to deliver the hospital services (with respect to outcomes and outputs), other health services, teaching, research and other services specified in the Service Agreement. In exercising control over a Service, the Hospital and Health Board is required to ensure that the operations of the Hospital and Health Service are carried out efficiently, effectively and economically.