



Paul Henderson
ACTING MINISTER FOR HEALTH



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HEALTH EXPERT HEADS AMBO REVIEW

One of Australia's leading health experts Bernie McKay will head the review into the future of ambulance services in the Northern Territory.

Acting Health Minister Paul Henderson said Mr McKay's experience and expertise made him highly suitable for the job.

"Bernie McKay has been an administrator and consultant in the health area at Federal State, Regional and Territory levels," Mr Henderson said.

"Mr McKay's 35 years in the health sector has given him considerable experience in being accountable for the delivery of ambulance services in Australia.

"This includes his roles as Regional Director North Coast (New South Wales Health Commission), as CEO and Chairman of the SA Health Commission and as Director-General of NSW Health.

The expert, independent review will explore options for delivering a quality ambulance service which is sustainable.

The terms of reference (attached) have been carefully drafted to so the full range of issues relating to the future of the service can be thoroughly addressed.

"The number one priority is to ensure Territorians have a quality ambulance service which is sustainable.

"The current agreement will be extended and the current funding of \$8.2 million per annum will be guaranteed in the meantime.

"The Northern Territory Government has increased the contract with St John by 35% since 2001/2002," Mr Henderson said.

The Government expects to receive and respond to the report by the end of the year.

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