New Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner appointed

1 June 2015

A former Health Minister with more than 30 years’ experience working throughout the Northern Territory will be recommended for appointment as the new Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner.

Cabinet will recommend to the Administrator of the Northern Territory that Stephen Dunham be appointed to the role from 11 June 2015.

Health Minister John Elferink said Mr Dunham had a wealth of experience in health and community services having served as Health Minister for three years and as a Senior Advisor to four Health Ministers.

“The Health and Community Services Complaints Commission is a vitally important organisation that provides assistance to Territorians to resolve complaints about health, disability and aged services and to make recommendations to improve the quality of these services,” he said.

“Mr Dunham has an in depth understanding of both the health system itself and the laws that underpin it and I believe he will make a very competent and capable Commissioner.

“He has worked extensively in communities and outstations in the remote parts of the Territory and served on the Katherine Hospital Management Board, so he knows the issues affecting all Territorians and how to resolve their concerns.”

Mr Elferink also paid tribute to outgoing Commissioner Lisa Coffey, who did not seek an extension of her five year term.

“I thank Ms Coffey for her years of service in what can be a very challenging role and wish her all the best for the future,” he said.

Mr Dunham’s experience includes 12 years working as a senior public servant in the Northern Territory (1976 – 1988), 12 years as a Senior Ministerial Advisor (1988 – 1997 and 2012 – 2015) and eight years as a Member of Parliament (1997 – 2005), which included three years as Health Minister.
He has also worked in senior roles for the Film and Literature Classification Board in New South Wales and the Prisoners Review Board in Western Australia, and as General Manager for Nukote Australia, a Perth based company that provides products to the mining industry.

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