

Health Commission Ordinance 1975

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY HEALTH COMMISSION ORDINANCE

The Ordinance establishes a Capital Territory Health Commission consisting of a full-time Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner appointed by the Governor-General and seven part-time members, viz -

- three members elected by the Legislative Assembly;
- one member elected by nursing employees;
- one member elected by employees other than nurses and registered medical practitioners;
- one member nominated by the Hospitals and Health Services Commission; and
- one member, being a registered medical practitioner who has performed a medical service in the Territory in the twelve months preceding his election, who is elected by similarly qualified medical practitioners.

2. The Commission is to be responsible to the Minister for Health for health services in the Australian Capital Territory. It is to provide and conduct hospitals, nursing homes and other health institutions as well as offering a complete and co-ordinated health care system for the community. The Ordinance repeals the Canberra Hospitals Ordinance 1938-1973 and the Commission will take over the functions of the Canberra Hospitals Management Board.

3. The Commission is to have its own staff consisting of officers and temporary employees who, with the exception of some members to be employed under the Public Service Act, will hold office on terms and conditions determined by the Commission with the approval of the Public Service Board. Staff of the superseded Canberra Hospitals Management Board will be employed by the Commission on the same terms and conditions of employment as with the Management Board.

4. A special feature of the staffing provisions of the Ordinance is the creation of a Staff Council to make recommendations to the Commission on any matter that affects, or may affect, a person employed by the Commission or engaged upon the business of the Commission. One half of the Council's ten members will be appointed by the Commission; the remaining half by the Union Liaison Committee - an association which represents the unions whose members will be involved in the work of the Commission.

5. There are standard provisions dealing with the finances of the Commission. Annual estimates of expenditure and receipts and annual reports are to be submitted to the Minister, proper accounts are to be kept and the accounts and records of transactions are to be subject to audit by an auditor appointed by the Treasurer.

6. The Commission was proposed in 1970 following a study of Future Health Care Services in the A.C.T. An Interim Committee has been advising the Minister for Health on its establishment since April 1974.

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Authority: The Minister for Health
vide section 12 of the
Seat of Government
(Administration) Act
1910-1965.