PAYING FOR TOMORROW'S HEALTH

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Stephen McKernan, Director General of Health, Ministry of Health

Stephen McKernan is the Director General of Health a role he has held since 31 July 2006. As Director General he is the Minister of Health and Assoc. Minister of Health principal advisor on health and disability matters. The Director General has the key strategic role in leading the development and performance of the New Zealand health system. He is responsible for the negotiation of, and allocation of $10.6 billion of health expenditure and the monitoring of this through the 21 District Health Boards.

Prior to the Director-General position Stephen spent 4 years as a Chief Executive, of the Counties-Manukau District Health Board. Counties-Manukau DHB is one of the country's largest DHBs serving a high needs population with an annual budget of $950m and employing some 5500 staff. Counties-Manukau DHB has a reputation of excellence and innovation with a strong focus on integrated care programmes. During his tenure at Counties-Manukau the organisation's deficit position of $48m was returned to break even status.

Prior to joining Counties-Manukau Stephen spent 4 years as Chief Executive of Hutt Valley District Health Board and its predecessor organisation Hutt Valley Health.

Stephen holds a Bachelor of Business Studies from Massey University and a Diploma in Public Health from the Royal Society of Health.