

Biography



Stephen McKernan

Director General of Health, New Zealand

Stephen McKernan is the Director General of Health and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Health, a role he has held since 31 July 2006. As Director General he is the Government's 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. This includes the negotiation of, and allocation of \$12 billion of health expenditure and the monitoring of this through the 21 District Health Boards.

Stephen has held senior executive roles in the New Zealand Health system for the past 18 years. He has been a Chief Executive since 1998 with his first Chief Executive appointment being Hutt Valley Health and subsequently Chief Executive of Hutt Valley DHB in 2000. In 2002 he was appointed Chief Executive of Counties Manukau DHB.

Stephen has a Bachelor of Business Studies from Massey University and a Diploma in Public Health from the Royal Society of Health. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian College of Health Service Executives.