

MR MICHAEL DAUBE, APPOINTMENT TO POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH

Statement by Minister for Health

MR KUCERA (Yokine - Minister for Health) [2.25 pm]: I am pleased today to inform the House on behalf of the Government of the appointment of Mr Michael Daube to the position of Director General of Health. Mr Daube has a long and distinguished history in the health industry both in Western Australia and internationally. I acknowledge his presence in the gallery today. He is the current chief executive officer of the Cancer Foundation of Western Australia and has worked in many senior roles within government, including assistant commissioner public health and chief executive of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. His standing has been recognised by international and national awards and an honorary doctorate in science from the Curtin University of Technology. Mr Daube is known here and internationally for his commitment to improving health, and he is a leading international authority on health promotion and tobacco control.

As a former Acting Commissioner of Health, he knows well the challenges before him. Health represents the single biggest area of expenditure by the State, with spending this year of \$2.3 billion - one-quarter of the state budget. Health is also subject to an enormous range of pressures, including high community expectations, increasing costs, structural inefficiencies, powerful vested interests and the need for greater financial controls.

Mr Daube has an innate understanding of the many pressures confronting the health system, and brings to the role strong management expertise and a capacity to work well with a range of interest groups. As the chair of the Western Australian Government's Health Administrative Review Committee, Mr Daube is also exceedingly well placed to implement the Government's reform agenda for health. He has an understanding of this Government's commitment to openness and accountability, and under his stewardship I would expect the director general's role to involve far greater direct communication with the public than has been the case in the past.

I also take this opportunity to thank Professor Bryant Stokes, who took up the position in an acting capacity earlier this year. Professor Stokes' guidance has been invaluable to me over the past few months, and I thank him for taking up the position during a time of transition. I will be inviting Professor Stokes to become chair of the new Health Advisory Council.

Mr Daube has indicated to me that he will take up the director general's position on 12 November. I look forward to working with him to ensure that the Government continues to provide high quality, accessible health services to all Western Australians.