

Health Act 1993

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE A.C.T.

Instrument No.'s 14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24, & 25 of 1997

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The ACT Ethics Committee ("the Committee") is appointed under Section 7(a) of the *Health Act 1993*. This provides a protective framework for quality assurance committees.

The Committee sits to consider research protocols, and operates in accordance with guidelines from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC).

Under NH&MRC guidelines, membership of the Committee should include a layman and laywoman not associated with health institutions, a minister of religion and lawyer and a medical graduate with research experience. The ACT Committee also comprises a community representative and the Chief Pharmacist and representatives from Medical, Clinical and Nursing Services of The Canberra Hospital.

Nominees for membership to the Committee were sought through a public notice in *The Canberra Times* of 3 August 1996. Invitations for nominations were also sent to the ACT Churches Council, the Law Society of the ACT and current members.

The Government has appointed Ms Elizabeth Grant AM as chair, and Dr Graham Reynolds, Ms Susan Alexander, Mr Vincent Sharma, Dr Janet Mould, Rev Bruce Ball, Ms Jillian Fleming, Ms Anne Gardner, Mr Justin Keller, Mr David Nott, Ms Camilla Webster and Mr John Gray as Members, of the Committee.

Ms Elizabeth Grant is currently a Director with Commerce Management Services. She is a registered pharmacist, a member of the Pharmacy Board of the ACT and a Life Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Ms Grant has been active in many roles in the Community and was awarded the honour of Member of the Order of Australia in 1987. She has been a member of the NH&MRC and served on a number of the Council's Committees including the Medical Research Ethics Committee. She is currently a member of the Committee and her appointment as Chair provides continuity. Ms Grant has been appointed as the Laywoman on the Committee.

Dr Graham Reynolds is the Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at The Canberra Hospital. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and is a Senior Lecturer at the Canberra Clinical School. He is currently a member of the Committee. Dr Reynolds is appointed as the Medical Graduate with Research Experience.

Mr Vincent Sharma is the Director of Legal Services with Comcare. He was admitted to the Bar in 1991. He is a founding member of the Law Council's Commonwealth Law Employment sub-committee. Mr Sharma is appointed in the position of Lawyer on the Committee on the nomination of the Law Society of the ACT.

Reverend Bruce Ball is the Minister for the North Woden Parish of the Uniting Church in Australia. He has been responsible for developing community needs assessments, counselling and advocacy services for people with mental illness and the development of self-help programs. He was nominated by the ACT Churches Council.

Mr Justin Keller is a retired school principal. He was Director of the ACT Schools Authority's Quality Education Program in the 1980s. He also operated EDINFORMA, an educational consultancy firm, following his retirement from the ACT Department of Education. He is nominated as a Layman on the Committee.

Ms Camilla Webster is a Senior Assistant Parliamentary Counsel for the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. She has a Masters of Laws from Cambridge University. She is nominated as a Lawyer on the Committee.

Mr John Gray is currently managing a consultancy practice providing advice to the drug industry. He is recently retired from the Therapeutic Goods Branch of the Commonwealth's (former) Department of Health and Human Services. This has provided Mr Gray with experience in drug evaluations and clinical trials.

The Appointments are valid for three years from the date of appointment as recorded on the Instruments of Appointment.

The Committee also comprises a number of officers who are appointed by virtue of their position. Dr David Nott is a Senior Clinician, Ms Anne Gardner is a senior nurse, Ms Susan Alexander is the Chief Pharmacist, and Dr Janet Mould is Senior Medical Executive, at The Canberra Hospital, and Ms Jillian Fleming is from the ACT Alcohol and Drug Service.

After consideration by Government the appointments were referred to the Social Policy Committee in accordance with the *Statutory Appointments Act 1994*.