1. The Health Quality and Complaints Commission (HQCC) is constituted under the provisions of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission Act 2006 (the Act) and its main objects are to provide for oversight and review of, and improvement in, the quality of health services, and independent review and management of health complaints.
2. Section 149 of the Act provides for the appointment by Governor in Council of at least five, but no more than seven, Assistant Commissioners for the HQCC.
3. The assistant commissioners must include at least one lawyer, one medical practitioner with clinical experience, one nurse or midwife, one allied health professional and one with skills and experience in consumer issues.
4. Under section 152 of the Act, the office of a commission member becomes vacant including if the member resigns office by signed notice given to the Minister.
5. On 15 December 2011, Her Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and under the provisions of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission Act 2006, approved the appointment of Dr Russell Stitz as Commissioner of the HQCC for a term of two years commencing on 1 January 2012.
6. Dr Stitz was previously appointed as Assistant Commissioner – medical practitioner for a term of three years commencing on 1 January 2011 until 31 December 2013.
7. Dr Stitz’s appointment as Commissioner has created a casual vacancy in the position of Assistant Commissioner – medical practitioner. It is proposed to appoint Dr John Rivers in place of Dr Stitz.
8. Cabinet endorsed that that Dr John Taylor Rivers be recommended to the Governor in Council for appointment as Assistant Commissioner – medical practitioner to the Health Quality and Complaints Commission for a term of commencing from the date of appointment by the Governor in Council until 31 December 2013.