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MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Health management changes welcomed by HFANZ

Efficiency gains expected as a result of changes to the public health system announced by the Government today have been welcomed by the Health Funds Association (HFANZ).

Executive director Roger Styles said the public sector, which undertook 80 percent of health spending, had a leadership role in containing cost growth in health.

“It is pleasing to see the Government moving to lift the performance of the sector and get on top of cost pressures,” he said.

Health Minister Tony Ryall said the package of changes, including a National Health Board and consolidated backroom services currently provided by the 21 District Health Boards, would have a one-off cost of \$5 million to \$10 million, but up to \$700 million was expected to be saved in the first five years from co-ordinating procurement and logistics.

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