



THE HON MARK BUTLER MP
Minister for Mental Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister Butler Announces New Aged Care Commissioner

Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler today announced the appointment of Rae Lamb as the new Aged Care Commissioner.

Ms Lamb will take up her appointment for a three year period, commencing 5 January 2011.

Ms Lamb has been the Deputy Health and Disability Commissioner in New Zealand for the past five years and has an extensive background in complaints handling, investigation and review in the health and aged care regulatory environment.

Previously she was a specialist health correspondent, and was a Harkness Fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and the Harvard School of Public Health where she undertook research on the disclosure of medical error.

Minister Butler welcomed the appointment and said that Ms Lamb will bring substantial skills and experience to the important role.

“Ms Lamb is well qualified to lead the Office of the Aged Care Commissioner, which plays a critical role in promoting quality in aged care.” Minister Butler said.

“I am confident that she will use her wealth of knowledge and experience, coupled with a fresh perspective, to the benefit of both people receiving aged care and aged care providers.”

Ms Lamb’s appointment follows an open selection process. Adjunct Professor John Kelly AM has acted as the temporary Aged Care Commissioner from May 2010 until the selection process was finalised.

“I sincerely thank Professor Kelly for the strong leadership he has provided to the Office of Aged Care Commissioner over the past seven months,” Minister Butler said.

The Aged Care Commissioner is a statutory appointment made under the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

For more information, please contact Mr Butler’s office on 02 6277 7280