Movable Heritage within the NSW Public Health System

Summary This policy outlines the requirements to be met by public health facilities in relation to the management of Movable Heritage within the NSW Public Health System.

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Distributed to Public Health System, NSW Ambulance Service, Ministry of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

Audience Administration;Chief Executives;Directors;Boards

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is mandatory for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.
MOVABLE HERITAGE WITHIN THE NSW PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

PURPOSE
A Policy for the State-Wide Management of Movable Heritage within the NSW Public Health System has been reviewed and framework developed that outlines a co-ordinated State-wide approach. It is at times of change that movable heritage is most vulnerable and this policy has been developed to assist in the preservation of health heritage items and collections.

Health and Medicine heritage collections exist in many forms that range from formal museum collections housed in public institutions and community museums, informal museums housed in hospitals and health facilities, historical collections on display in the public space of hospitals, health facilities and universities to those that are personal collections that have been rescued from destruction or disposal.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS
Area Health Services are to ensure “Movable Heritage” (reasonably portable items of historical or cultural significance) material within the NSW health system is identified, documented and managed properly, so that it is accessible to the wider community, and so that its cultural value is preserved for future generations. Healthcare has historical significance to the people of NSW and therefore is important for movable heritage to be preserved.

IMPLEMENTATION
Chief Executives are to nominate an executive member of the Area Health Service executive to be responsible for the Area’s implementation of this policy.

The nominated responsible executive is to ensure:

- all facilities are made aware of the policy
- each facility with a collection develops procedures that provide clear guidance regarding the scope of the collection and nature of the items/objects to be collected in the future.
- appropriate recognition is given to those who look after the collections at a local level by:
  - acknowledging collections in publications such as newsletters and annual reports;
  - the inclusion of the itemised collections on a movable health heritage registers and
  - ensuring that local displays include the contact details of the staff member/volunteer responsible.
The following document is provided to facilitate implementation of this policy and is available on the intranet website http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/operations/apmd/heritage/heritage.html

- The Guide to Health and Medicine Collections in NSW & ACT that contains information about the many health and medical related museums and historical collections that currently exist throughout NSW and the ACT.

REVISION HISTORY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
<th>Amendment notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 2010 (PD2010_029)</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General Health System Support</td>
<td>Rescinds PD2005_401. Updated policy following review and further development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2004 (PD2005_401)</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
<td>New policy</td>
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