

Professor Cliff Hughes AO

Professor Cliff Hughes is the Chief Executive Officer of the Clinical Excellence Commission, a statutory health corporation established in 2004 to build capacity and design programmes to promote and support improvement in quality and safety for health services across NSW. This appointment follows a 25 year career as a Cardiothoracic Surgeon in Sydney.

Professor Hughes has been Chairman or member of numerous state and federal committees associated with quality, safety and research in clinical practice for health care services. He held various positions in the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, including Senior Examiner in Cardiothoracic Surgery and member of the College Council.

Professor Hughes is a member of four editorial boards and has published widely in books, journals and conference proceedings on cardiothoracic surgery, quality and safety. He has a particular passion patient driven care, better incident management, quality improvement programmes and development of clinical leaders.

Professor Hughes has received a number of awards for his national and international work including an Alumni Award from the University of NSW. He has led five medical teams to China and has performed cardiac surgery in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, India and Bangladesh. In 1998, Australia recognised his contribution by making him an Officer in the Order of Australia for “service to cardiac surgery, international relations and the community”.