

Health board replacements

An Auckland business consultant, Mr Fred Baird, a ministerial appointee to the Canterbury Area Health Board has been axed for poor attendance.

The Minister of Health, Ms Clark, said Mr Baird had been replaced because he did not attend enough board meetings.

Mr Baird was appointed to the board for his business expertise last December with five other ministerial appointees.

Ms Clark has replaced Mr Baird with Mr Greg Coyle, a Christchurch podiatrist in private practice, specialising in sports medicine and diabetes.

Mr Coyle works at the Gloucester Sports Clinic. "Mr Baird, who now resides in Auckland, was unable to attend a sufficient number of board meetings. It was therefore necessary to appoint a replacement who is resident in Christchurch," said Ms Clark.

Mr Baird's appointment last December surprised board members, as although he had lived in Christchurch for many years, he had moved to Auckland about a year before he was appointed.

Last December, Ms Clark had said she was confident he would be an asset to the board in a time of budget constraint.

Asked if any board members had initiated a review of board attendances, Ms Clark said, "Mr Baird is a ministerial appointee and because of the fact he did not live in Christchurch I decided that six months down the road it would be sensible to review his appoint-