

# Hospital auditor appointed

BY NICOLE JACKSON

A DELEGATE has been appointed to audit Latrobe Regional Hospital's records following allegations of figure fudging.

Julian Gardner was last week appointed to LRRH's board, after it was found the hospital manipulated data about the time it took for

patients to be transferred from the emergency department to a ward.

Mr Gardner was appointed by State Health Minister Daniel Andrews and will independently examine data to make sure it is being properly recorded.

He has a background in dealing with health issues and is a human rights and social justice advocate.

Jason Frenkel, spokesperson for Mr Andrews, said Mr Gardner

would be in place for LRRH's next board meeting on 28 April.

"He will be there until he is satisfied the recommendations from the audit by Paxton Partners are fully implemented," Mr Frenkel said.

Mr Frenkel said Mr Gardner was a "respected" former public advocate who had also been appointed to the Royal Woman's Hospital to see the same changes were made there.

Latrobe Regional Hospital CEO Peter Craighead said the hospital welcomed Mr Gardner's appointment.

"In his recent report, the Auditor-General recognised Latrobe Regional Hospital had taken appropriate measures to better assure accurate reporting of data," Mr Craighead said. "The hospital's focus remains on patient care and the provision of better services to the community."