



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN TEACHING TRAINING RESEARCH

FACT SHEET

What is Tasmania's Health Plan?

- A comprehensive Health Plan that focuses on services and clients
- Includes both the Primary Health and Clinical Services Plans
- It is a road map for the development of all health services for the next 5 – 10 years
- Planning for the changes will commence immediately in some areas while other strategies will take time to implement
- It is likely that the reform process will affect all health services over a longer period of time

Why do we need Teaching, Training and Research?

Teaching and training are core elements of the Tasmanian health system because:

- they contribute to a culture of inquiry, learning and reflection which is crucial to workforce quality;
- they are vital to the future availability of a skilled workforce; and
- the opportunity to participate in these activities makes a significant contribution to the professional satisfaction of the health workforce and assists in recruitment and retention.

Key Elements for Teaching, Training and Research

The new health service models arising from the Plan will generate a specific set of health workforce issues that require an overarching health workforce plan. This will include a longer term strategy to link Tasmania's workforce needs to healthcare education, training and research. Early workforce actions will include:

- increasing support, through General Practice Workforce Tasmania, to aid in the recruitment of GPs to Tasmania;
- implementation of nurse practitioners working in rural health teams in 2008;
- considering new service requirements e.g. generic health degrees that will equip health providers to undertake lifestyle counselling and support in relation to chronic disease, increased utilisation of therapy assistants, direct care providers, expanded scope of practice for rural paramedics;
- establishing teams focused on the prevention and management of diabetes;
- through the clinical networks, reviewing postgraduate medical training opportunities and accreditation requirements and ensuring that Tasmania's accredited registrar positions are optimised through cooperative arrangements across the State; and
- delegating additional authority to hospital CEOs to manage their health professional workforces within agreed budgets, enabling local flexibility in decision-making within a framework of strengthened accountability.

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- Opportunities to recruit and retain health care professionals to the NWRH are expected to improve as service design is strengthened, enhancing both the level of support that is available to clinicians and their capacity to delivery quality care within well-designed services.

Specific Strategies

The DHHS will work with the University of Tasmania and other educational providers to provide sustainable health workforce training and development, including a commitment to vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate student placements in primary health care and multidisciplinary settings. Specific strategies will include:

- strengthening the Partners in Health agreement with the University of Tasmania;
- undertaking research and evaluation of the outcomes of demonstration sites established as part of the implementation of the Primary Health Services Plan;
- exploring the potential to expand allied health tertiary education within Tasmania including consideration of addressing priority workforce issues such as access to physiotherapy, nutrition, dietetics;
- further developing a degree course for Environmental Health Officers in Tasmania;
- developing a nurse clinical school in Hobart;
- working with the University of Tasmania to examine the feasibility of a Primary Health Clinical Education Centre at the Clarence Community Health Centre providing inter professional learning experience for medical, nursing and allied health staff in a community based setting;
- working with the University of Tasmania to examine the feasibility of developing the LGH precinct as an enhanced primary/secondary Education Centre providing inter professional learning for health professional students;
- developing all Rural Health Centres as Rural Health Teaching sites; and
- increasing workplace clinical psychological training across the DHHS.

Research

Engagement in and publication of research enables Tasmania to contribute to the broader national health care agenda and fosters pride in the Tasmanian health care community. It enables an understanding of the factors that contribute to the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians, thereby contributing to the development of the health care system over time.

- The DHHS will work with the Menzies Research Institute, the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust, the RHH Research Foundation, the University of Tasmania and other research stakeholders to develop a formal strategy for health research in Tasmania which will ensure that Tasmania consolidates and expands its research effort through a cooperative partner approach.

