

# Tasmanian Clinical Education Network

## Governance Committee

### Submission to Exposure Draft White Paper

#### - One State One Health System Better Outcomes

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#### **Tasmanian Clinical Education Network (TCEN)**

**Our vision** is to

*provide a dynamic, competent workforce that will meet the health and wellbeing challenges in Tasmania.*

**Our challenge** is to

*develop a workforce that can provide safe, high quality person centred services within changing environments and budgetary constraints.*

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The Tasmanian health system requires significant changes to enable the provision of safe, high quality consumer centred care into the future.

This will only be possible if our health professionals have the skills, knowledge and responsive capability to make a difference.<sup>1</sup>

Implementation of the Strategic Framework for Health Workforce (CAPABLE framework) will greatly assist us to move in this direction. However, the Exposure Draft has significant gaps in terms of the enablers for, and the leadership required, to implement this.

With regard to the Education and Training section of the Exposure Draft, it is noted that there is a need to ‘ensure training decisions are aligned to what the state needs from health professionals in the future is essential and will be assisted by the development of and implementation of a clinical services profile.’ It is unclear however, how this will happen.

Collaboration and partnerships will be essential to ensuring that the training provided meets the changing needs of the health and human services workforce. The TCEN can play a vital role as an advisory body providing the necessary leadership and direction to implement education and training reforms.

The TCEN Governance Committee is represented by key senior level members from health, education sectors, Aged Care, Ambulance Tasmania and local hospital networks. The Governance Committee currently meets at regular, 6 weekly intervals with the aim to work together to increase the education and training capacity for health professionals within Tasmania’s health sector (both public and private). The Governance Committee has indicated its interest in extending the current scope of Terms of Reference for the Network to include broader workforce reform initiatives. This is demonstrated in the active engagement of the Governance Committee in the development of the CAPABLE Framework and its many priorities that are directly linked to the activity of the TCEN Work Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic Framework for Health Workforce 2013-2018,

<<http://www.tcen.com.au/strategic%20workforce%20framework>>

Within the current health system structure of three (3) Tasmanian Health Organisations, education, training and workforce research is undertaken at the local level and results in ad hoc activities that may be duplicated across organisations or indeed, not undertaken at all.

The Tasmanian reform agenda will see the establishment of the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) from 1 July 2015.

A central education, training and research arm within the new THS could enable a strategic and targeted approach to the coordination of education, training and research. A centralised structure would be better placed to negotiate with education providers with regard to education and training requirements for health professionals that will meet workforce remodelling requirements and clinical redesign priorities. This approach would also provide consistent advice and access to evidence based practice to ensure the workforce has the capabilities and flexibility to meet the changing needs of health care.

Such an initiative provides opportunities for partnership and cooperation with the TCEN thereby maximising collaboration across sectors.