



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

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 to change?

Our health system is facing a number of unprecedented challenges:

- Dealing with an epidemic in chronic disease
- A rapidly ageing workforce and difficulties recruiting new staff
- Maintaining safe, quality services
- Providing services for an ageing population
- Managing increases in costs of health care

Is there a choice?

- No – failure to act will cause the current situation to worsen
- We can't afford to put Tasmanian patient's and client's health care at risk
- We can't afford to place our staff under pressure any longer
- We need to start the reform process now to invest in the services that our community needs

Key Elements of Tasmania's Health Plan

- Greater focus on primary health, increasing health promotion, refocussing the role of community nurses, better management of chronic illnesses and working closely with GPs; earlier intervention in the beginning of the disease cycle; illness prevention and support for people to manage their own health.
- Through a new Service Capability Framework:
 - refocus acute services in the three major hospitals to maximise effective use of scarce resources and maintaining safety for all Tasmanians; depending on each hospital's capacity
 - confirm the Royal Hobart Hospital as the State's principal tertiary referral hospital;
 - consolidate the role of the Launceston General Hospital as the regional referral hospital for the North and North West;

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Key Elements of Tasmania's Health Plan (continued)

- reconfigure services at the North West Regional Hospital with an important new specialist role for the Mersey campus and acute services consolidated at Burnie;
- development of statewide and single site services
- Establishing Clinical Networks to assure the safety and quality of clinical care across all sites and services;
- Establishing a new tiered service structure for both primary and acute health, with a change of role for some facilities including reconfiguring under-used district hospital services with resources redirected to primary health care;
- Introducing Integrated Care Centres bringing together primary and acute health services on some sites;
- Reforming and strengthening health transport systems for both urgent and non-urgent patient travel;
- Investing in a Statewide health workforce strategy to reduce Tasmania's dependency on overseas trained professionals and high cost locum clinicians by developing, attracting and retaining specialist medical, nursing and allied health skills;

How will the changes be implemented?

- Implementing of Tasmania's Health Plan will be the responsibility of the Secretary and Deputy Secretaries of the Acute Health and Community Health Services Groups and require the support of all senior managers and staff involved in the delivery of health services.
- For some changes project teams will be established to ensure that the changes are carefully implemented with minimum impact on service delivery and DHHS staff.

When will the changes occur?

- Some of the changes will begin immediately:
 - Redesign NWRH services
 - Change first rural health sites
 - Development of networks
 - Implementation of Primary Health service model
- Whilst others will be implemented over time

How can I find out more about the changes?

- Read Tasmania's Health Plan
- Visit the DHHS Intranet site Future Health
- Talk to your manager or supervisor
- Ring the Future Health Hotline
- Read one of the Fact Sheets or Pamphlets

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