



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

DEVELOPING CLINICAL NETWORKS

FACT SHEET

What is Tasmania's Health Plan?

- A comprehensive Health Plan for the future health system in Tasmania 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

Why do we need to develop Clinical Networks?

- Clinical networks have been developed both in a number of Australian states and internationally to improve patient outcomes and increase clinician engagement and collaboration in health planning and service delivery.
- The clinical networks formally link clinicians delivering particular services across the major acute hospitals, as well as rural hospitals, GPs and other primary health providers.
- Clinical networks will:
 - have a clinical leader who has both a clinical and advisory function
 - be multidisciplinary
 - be supported by a revamped clinical advisory committee
- Clinical networks can improve health care for patients through the exchange of information, development of referral protocols and procedures, establishment of clinical guidelines and professional development, support and leadership

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- Tasmania will benefit from the development of clinical networks because:
 - We have a small number of clinicians based at different sites and under different management structures. Networks provide support and structure for clinicians delivering and managing a service (such as cancer care) across the state from different sites and situations; and allow sustainable access where the population is dispersed.
 - They allow increasing collaboration, coordination and planning for the efficient use of scarce resources
 - They foster continuity of patient care when it involves different providers in different settings.

How will Clinical Networks operate in Tasmania?

- Clinical Networks will span the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors and advise on diverse issues including policy, planning, governance, training of health professionals and service quality. It is proposed clinical networks will be established for:
 - Aged care and rehabilitation
 - Cancer services
 - Cardiology / cardiac surgery
 - Diabetes and chronic disease
 - Emergency, critical care services and trauma services
 - Medical services
 - Renal medicine
 - Surgical services
 - Women's and children's services incorporating maternal and perinatal services and paediatric medicine and surgery.
- A new Clinical Advisory Council will be convened, comprising clinicians from the primary and acute health service systems;
- The Clinical Advisory Council will lead and coordinate the clinical networks and will be the principal vehicle for clinical advice to the Department about the structure and performance of the health system as a whole and on the development of specific service plans.
- The Clinical Advisory Council will have a significant role in the credentialing and scope of practice provided by clinicians employed in the Department.

How can I find out more about the changes?

- Read Tasmania's Health Plan
- Visit the DHHS Internet site Future Health - www.health.tas.gov.au
- Talk to your manager or supervisor
- Ring the Future Health Hotline - 1300 795 311
- Read one of the Fact Sheets or Pamphlets

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