



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN SAFETY AND QUALITY

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 within limited budget
- Providing services for an ageing population
- Managing increases in costs of health care

How will these changes improve safety and quality?

- A Service Capability Framework will be introduced to assure the quality, safety and efficiency of inpatient services at all levels.
- The Service Capability Framework will ensure that services are sustainable and that patients access the safest and most effective services our hospitals can provide.
- In the event that services do not have appropriate access to clinical support services, an appropriately skilled and available workforce, equipment, suitable facilities and appropriate capacity to maintain clinical standards, alternative arrangements for delivery of services will be considered
- The Plan also introduces formal guidelines for statewide and single site services and for the introduction of new services. New services will only be approved if:
 - They have undergone a transparent, evidence-based assessment of sustainability;
 - There is sufficient patient demand to support three and preferably four practitioners.
 - There is a reasonable prospect of recruiting practitioners for specialist services requiring frequent out-of-hours recall;
 - No practitioner will be required or permitted to work in isolation; and

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- Where an established service is volume dependent, no similar service will be established unless it can be demonstrated unequivocally that the existing service will not be compromised.

- Credentialling and defining scope of practice arrangements in major acute hospitals will be further strengthened to ensure the initial and ongoing qualifications, experience, competence and performance of health care practitioners and the capability of the service system to support the services are delivered
- The results of a clinical role delineation assessment will be applied to rural inpatient facilities to ensure that these services can be delivered safely
- DHHS Primary Health will continue to place a high priority on quality and safety through the development and maintenance of its clinical governance framework
- The clinical role delineation process will be extended to Community Health Centres
- External accreditation of broader primary health care services will be established to underpin the quality agenda, and to ensure the community can have confidence in its services. This will augment the well-established accreditation system for general practice and residential aged care
- All Community Health sites will be subject to a quality auditing system.

How can I find out more about the changes?

- Read Tasmania's Health Plan
- Visit the DHHS Intranet 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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