



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN INTEGRATED CARE CENTRES

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

What are integrated care centres?

- Traditionally, settings for the delivery of health care have been determined largely by their sources of funding. State-funded health services have been provided mainly through State-owned facilities which often have been established in relative isolation from Commonwealth- or privately-funded health care providers such as GPs, private hospitals, private community nursing services and private allied health services.
- There has been increasing recognition of the urgent need to integrate services to reduce gaps and duplication and ensure client access is unimpeded by funding or organisational boundaries.
- Integrated care centres may be stand-alone facilities; colocated with acute hospitals; or incorporated within acute hospitals.

Integrated care centres are facilities which:

- accommodate a range of health services – across both primary and acute care – that provide efficient, integrated care regardless of who funds, owns or provides each element of the services;
- operate under a philosophy which is less interventional and oriented towards care in the community rather than institutional care; and

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- provide greater certainty of access for clients because they focus on non-emergency services including a broad range of non-admitted primary, secondary and tertiary services, short-stay elective services and specialised sub-acute services.
- Integrated care centres may be stand-alone facilities; collocated with acute hospitals; or incorporated within acute hospitals.

Why do we need Integrated Care Centres?

Integrated Care Centres:

- improve the linkage between inpatient and primary health services and their linkages to GP's;
- provide a space for better management of chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, asthma, arthritis, heart disease, stroke and cancer; and
- provide the capacity for Tasmanians to build resilience and awareness about healthy lifestyles and treating ill health as early as possible to reduce long term chronic illness.

When will Integrated Care Centres be developed?

- Tasmania's Health Plan proposes the development of new integrated care centres in the South (one in conjunction with the Royal Hobart Hospital, one stand-alone on the Eastern Shore and one in Kingborough); and in the North (close to the Launceston General Hospital).
- While the timing of the development of new sites will depend on local building schedules, it is intended that work will commence on the Launceston and Eastern Shore sites as soon as possible.

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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