

From the Deputy Secretary

The development of a Clinical Service Plan for the acute public hospitals has commenced. The plan will be the primary strategic document for the delivery of acute hospital services to the Tasmanian community and will provide a clear direction for the provision of clinical services over the next decade. It will be regularly reviewed and updated to inform detailed service plans and priorities.

The clinical services plan will take into account a number of planning documents which have formed the basis of our strategic direction including the Richardson Report. The Clinical Services Plan will build on this work and will also consider the views of stakeholders both within and external to acute health services.

The timeframes for completing the plan are very tight but I would encourage you to become involved where possible. You can do this through participation in a stakeholder group or by providing written information direct to the project team (details below).

The development of this plan is of great importance and will, for example, assist determine services to be provided by a new Royal Hobart Hospital.

Catherine Katz

Deputy Secretary

Consultation

Consultation with all key stakeholders including medical, nursing and allied health clinicians and the community is an important part of developing this plan.

Meetings will be organised with a number of clinical groups and individuals during November and early December.

A workshop was held in October, attended by managers and clinicians, to commence the planning process and this group will continue to meet at key stages of the project.

What will the Plan contain?

The Tasmanian Clinical Services Plan (CSP) will contain:

- an analysis of the way Tasmanian health care needs will change over the next 5-10 years;
- analysis of past and projected activity, as well as projected demand for each specialty and hospital;
- recommendations on the role of each specialty at each hospital;
- identify individual service strategies and significant issues for each hospital.

Interface with other strategic plans

The Plan will consider existing strategic plans, including the Richardson Report, the Acute Health Strategic Plan, the Short Term Building Works, strategic asset and clinical planning studies undertaken at the Royal Hobart and Launceston General Hospitals and the Cradle Coast and West Coast planning study.

It will also be developed in parallel with the Primary Health Services Clinical Services Plan that is being undertaken by the Community Health Services Group, taking account of the important relationship between services delivered from acute hospitals and in community settings.

How will the Plan progress?

The project involves five phases with the first four having a workshop to enable discussion and review of the work undertaken in each phase.

Phase 1 – Project Initiation. This includes assembling all relevant information and reports as well as preparing an issues paper on the current health services delivery context in Australia (Expected completion end October 2006).

Phase 2 - Assessments of Health Care Needs. This includes demographic analysis and assessing future activity volumes for services (Expected completion end November 2006).

Phase 3 - Review of services activity and issues. This will include consultation with service providers, assessment of existing services and consideration of key issues to identify opportunities for improvement (Expected completion mid December 2006).

Phase 4 - Development and Assessment of Options. The results of information obtained from Phases 2 and 3 will be considered in some detail to identify potential service delivery options. There will be further discussion with relevant stakeholders with a workshop held to finalise preferred strategies (Expected completion mid February 2007).

Phase 5 - Draft and Consult on the Clinical Services Plan. This will include circulation of a draft Clinical Services Plan with stakeholders and finalising a Plan that includes this input (Expected completion end April 2007).

How is the Plan being managed?

Development of the CSP is being guided by a Working Group chaired by Catherine Katz, Deputy Secretary, Acute Health Services and with membership comprising the CEOs of the public hospitals and representatives from the Acute Health Services and Community Services groups.

Consultants have been engaged to manage the key components of the plan including project management, demand modelling and analysis and consultation.

Coordination and support for the Project is being provided by Anne - Marie Stranger and Tony Sansom from the Acute Health Divisional Support Unit.

Who are the consultants?

Given the importance of this planning process consultants have been engaged to project manage the plan. The consultants who have been engaged are:

Len Dockrill from Aurora Projects in Melbourne is the project director and is being assisted by Brody Atterby and Karen O'Connor. Len has significant experience in major health projects in Australia and New Zealand including strategic planning and health needs assessment. Len has particular expertise in strategic planning of health care services and facilities, interpretation of the facilities and equipment needed to deliver a proposed health services strategy, working with health service staff and consultant teams to finalise facility design requirements and management of major health facility development projects.

Dr Heather Wellington of Phillips Fox in Melbourne is managing the consultation phase plan and will be meeting with interested individuals and groups throughout the state. Heather is a medical practitioner and lawyer with a background in health management, service planning, quality and risk management, governance and law. She has a unique mix of skills in operations, management, governance, policy and planning in health care, and is highly regarded throughout the Australian health care system for her expertise.

For further information

Further information about the clinical services plan can be obtained from:

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More information about the Clinical Services Plan can be obtained at <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency>

