



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Implementation Newsletter Issue 5, August 2008

Consumer Representatives set the Agenda

When the call for Expressions of Interest for Tasmania's Health Plan Consumer Representatives went out, the newspaper advertisements stated that, "we are seeking ten energetic and committed people in each region of Tasmania who can represent their local communities as we implement the Plan ... selected on the basis of their individual capacity to inform the implementation of Tasmania's Health Plan and to promote and advocate directions within the Plan amongst peers."

Some Southern Consumer Representatives



From left to right (front row): Linley Grant, Emma Fry, Debra Carnes; (back row): Geoffrey Duniam, John MacKean, Peter Hills.

One of the duties of Tasmania's Health Plan Consumer Representatives is to attend the biannual Community Forums established in each region of the State.

As part of the preparation for the October Forums, all Consumer Representatives have been contacted individually, and some have attended follow-up meetings, to provide feedback on the March Community Forums and to set the agenda for the October Community Forums.

These Consumer Representatives also undertook a short tour of Community Health Centre facilities, at these meetings, led by the local Primary Health Coordinator.

Some Consumer Representatives also agreed to take part in the photography project "Our state of health: Putting

consumers in the picture" and will be developing posters for display at the October Community Forums.

Some Northern Consumer Representatives



From left to right (front row): Douglas Ewington, Brian Bates; (back row): Margot Smart, Suzanne Linnett.

Some North West Consumer Representatives



From left to right (front row): Norm Britton, Marjorie Jones, Bruce Miller; (back row): Kay Denman, Ross Hines, Kate Beer.

Quarterly Progress Chart released

In May 2007, the Tasmanian Government released Tasmania's Health Plan – a roadmap to an integrated healthcare delivery system capable of meeting the health needs of the community that we serve, today and into the future. Tasmania's Health Plan continues to be the guide and strategic direction for health services in Tasmania and this Progress Chart helps keep all Tasmanians informed as to our progress along this path. The first Progress Chart was released in May 2008.

This update, released in August 2008, tracks the progress of the 77 projects that are currently being implemented around the state. You can find the progress chart at:

http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/32843/THPproject_progress_Aug08.pdf

Update on Patient Transport

The Non Emergency Patient and Community Transport Services Project is gathering pace and moving full steam ahead!

The latest news is about Non Emergency Patient Transport Services (PTS): that is the transport for people who need significant assistance, including stretcher support, to move from one place to another. PTS brings people from home to hospital, from hospital to hospital, and from hospital to home.

While informal coordination has always occurred between regions when booking PTS assistance, this is about to get a whole lot easier.

During September, the installation of a new IT software system will provide an on-line visual dispatch and coordination service. This means better use of PTS vehicles and greater service efficiencies.

Based in the Tasmanian Ambulance Service Communication Centre, it will be possible to use all PTS vehicles for a coordinated response. In other words, the state-wide IT system will allow PTS requests to be met in a way that hasn't been possible before.



Watch this space for more updates in the next Tasmania's Health Plan newsletter – more vehicles and staff are the next steps in providing a better patient transport service to Tasmanians and we will be outlining the next steps in our Community Transport and Accommodation projects.

Tasmania's Health Plan still features on the new look DHHS website

The Department of Health and Human Services website has been updated, based on feedback from the community and staff. All of the information that was previously online has been transferred into our new site, and all the information on Tasmania's Health Plan is still available at this address:

http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/future_health

Development of a Chronic Disease Strategy for Tasmania

The Department recently commenced the development of a new state-wide chronic disease strategy and is seeking broad input from the community. The strategy will build on the reforms outlined in Tasmania's Health Plan as well as the many chronic disease initiatives already planned or underway across the broader health system.

A chronic disease strategy for Tasmania will encompass:

1. a vision, principles, goals and actions;
2. a blueprint for progressing chronic disease prevention and management in Tasmania;
3. the development of service standards; and
4. the adoption of relevant clinical guidelines or care pathways.

Significant progress has already been made and around 100 people have now signed up to become members of the Virtual Network to comment on a review of current Australian and International chronic disease policy and models of care. Feedback received will be used to develop a draft strategy for broad public consultation during October 2008.

You can get involved in the development of a chronic disease strategy for Tasmania project in a number of ways:

- o Sign up to the Virtual Network by emailing chronicdisease.strategy@dhhs.tas.gov.au
- o Visit the Department's website at http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/future_health/chronic_disease_strategy for further information or to download the project background paper and consultation questions.
- o Phone Amanda Daly on 6233 7853.

The prevention and management of chronic disease is one of the biggest challenges facing health systems now and into the future. DHHS, together with its non government partners, is taking a number of steps to address this. A chronic disease strategy for Tasmania will provide an overarching policy framework to guide the development of an integrated approach.

More information

You can find out more about Tasmania's Health Plan.

- visit http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/future_health
- email future.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au
- call 6233 3964