

Work implementing the Primary Health Services Plan has already started. The Primary Health Development project has recruited support staff to work with community health and rural health service providers to promote the primary health approach.

The Rural Health Redevelopment project will work to ensure that the services provided in our rural centres better meet the needs of the population.

Planning for Integrated Care Centres has also started. These new facilities to accommodate a range of health services that provide efficient, integrated care regardless of who funds, owns or provides each element of the services.

The Clinical Networks project will enable improved communication and collaboration between service providers. The first step has already been taken with work to establish a Clinical Advisory Council.

The recruitment of a Service Innovation Manager for General Practice means that projects to develop a closer, more effective working relationship between primary health services and general practice can commence.

The Community Transport project has also started work to establish community transport networks that will better coordinate and improve transport options for people requiring access to non urgent attending health care services where public transport is either not available or is inappropriate.

The Learning for the Future project will expand the range of teaching sites in primary health and has started to develop proposals for an Interdisciplinary Primary Health School (South) and Integrated Medical and Health Education Unit (North).

Priority Projects for 2007

We can't afford to put Tasmanians at risk.

We need a plan to ensure that you have access to the care you need, when you need it.

We need to ensure we maximise our opportunities to keep Tasmanians healthy.

We need to plan for the growing demand for health services over the next 15 years.

What is an Implementation Plan?

The Tasmanian Government Project Management Guidelines describes the implementation process. An implementation plan is the first step in bringing about change and creating new services. It starts to describe how we will put Tasmania's Health Plan into practice.

Implementation plans talk about 'projects' and 'programs'. A project is a carefully defined set of activities that use resources (money, people, materials, energy, space, provisions etc.) to accomplish change. Programs are the name for a set of related projects.

A 'rolling wave' approach is being applied in the development of this implementation plan. Rolling wave planning is a phased approach used when there are many changes taking place at the same time.

Most implementation plans are 'internal' for use by the project team but some examples are available to the public and can be found at <http://www.government.tas.gov.au/themes/projects-management>

What is Tasmania's Health Plan?

Tasmania's Health Plan 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.

Why do we need a Plan?

Our health care system is facing a number of challenges that we cannot afford to ignore:

- Our population is ageing faster than any other state in Australia. By 2021 there will be 28 000 more Tasmanians over 70 than there are today.
- Older people depend more on health care services and are more likely to suffer with chronic diseases such as diabetes. Tasmanians smoke more, eat poorly and have higher rates of obesity than the Australian average.
- We have an epidemic of chronic disease such as diabetes and asthma, made worse by the choices that we make.
- Our health outcomes are amongst the poorest in Australia resulting in a lower life expectancy.
- We have the second highest death rate from cancer in Australia.
- We have a high number of people living on pensions who rely on public hospital services and cannot afford private insurance cover or non-bulk-billing GPs.
- Health care costs are increasing at more than twice the rate of general inflation.

Our health care system has to respond to these challenges and a failure to act now will worsen the current situation.

TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Primary Health Services Plan

People and Partnerships

Professor Judi Walker

As the inaugural Professor of Rural Health at the University of Tasmania, I have overall responsibility for the Faculty of Health Science's academic rural health portfolio, including rural health, primary health care, medical/health professional education, innovation in health service delivery and the health care workforce.



I believe the interdisciplinary and multiprofessional nature of academic rural health is reflected in the innovative strategies set out in the Primary Health Services Plan. Implementation of this plan will bring to life projects to make Tasmania's health workforce stronger and more sustainable. The University of Tasmania supports the broad directions of the Plan and I personally look forward to continuing involvement in implementation through the Partners in Health Management Committee.

Dr Patrick O'Sullivan

General Practice Tasmania is pleased to see clear recognition of the key role of general practice and a willingness to look beyond the public hospitals for solutions. This plan includes long-term strategies to address issues of access to services, coordination between services, workforce and service sustainability.



In our opinion, the welcome commitment to increasing the emphasis on health promotion and illness prevention is long overdue. The Minister is to be congratulated for her commitment to deliver a sustainable health system and for seeing the process through but the development of Tasmania's Health Plan needs to be seen as the beginning and not the end!

More information on Tasmania's Health Plan is available at <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/futurehealth>

For more information on Tasmania's Health Plan, incorporating the Clinical Services Plan, the Primary Health Services Plan and the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment free call us on **1300 795 311**.



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Primary Health Services Plan

Implementation Plan Summary

TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Primary Health Services Plan: Program and Projects Overview

Work stream	Coordination and Evaluation	1. Primary Health Focus	2. Primary Acute Care Integration	3. Integration with General Practice	4. Primary Health Partners	5. Workforce Sustainability
Sponsor	Office of the Deputy Secretary, Community Health	Primary Health Executive Group	Primary Acute Working Group	GP Memorandum of Understanding Monitoring Group*	Community Health Executive Team	Partners in Health Management Committee*
Coordinator	Project Manager, Community Health	Director, Primary Health	Director, Primary Health	Director, Primary Health	Deputy Secretary, Community Health	Deputy Secretary, Community Health
Projects	Program management to support coordination, reporting, quality assurance and evaluation of PHSP initiatives. (operational framework)	1.1 Primary Health Development 1.2 Planning for Sustainability 1.3 Consistent Community Health 1.4 Safe, Quality Services 1.5 Rural Health Centre Redevelopment 1.6 Preventing and Managing Chronic Disease 1.7 Primary Health Partnerships	2.1 Role Delineation and Memorandum of Understanding Development 2.2 Developing Integrated Care Centres 2.3 Rural Emergency Response 2.4 Integrating Primary and Acute Care 2.5 Strengthening Clinical Support	3.1 Primary Health working with General Practice 3.2 DHHS and GP Links 3.3 Sustainable General Practice 3.4 Chronic Disease Team Development	4.1 Alcohol and Drugs Action 4.2 Primary Mental Health Service Development 4.3 Local Government, Primary Health 4.4 Community Transport 4.5 Integrating Population Health Approaches	5.1 Retention and Development 5.2 Nursing Initiatives 5.3 New Workforce Models 5.4 Learning for the Future 5.5 Expanding Education and Research in Tasmania

*For more information on the Memorandum of Understanding with General Practice "Collaborating for Improved Health Outcomes" and the strategic partnership with the University of Tasmania Faculty of Health Science "Partners in Health" see <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency/partnerships/strategicpartnerships.php>

Primary Health Focus

These projects are implemented from within the Primary Health Services section of the Department of Health and Human Services. They will promote the 'primary health approach' to service provision. Key elements of the primary health care approach include:

- a focus on health and wellbeing, not just illness;
- a population perspective on health, not only for individuals;
- a multi-disciplinary team approach to care;
- a partnership approach in which a range of groups and organisations need to work together on improving health;
- a focus on actual health needs, such as chronic disease, rather than service needs; and
- fostering individuals' control over their health and participation in health decision making.

Primary and Acute Care Integration

These projects will promote improved communication and collaboration between hospital and non-hospital services:

- through the establishment of Clinical Networks across the acute, primary and other services,
- through the development of cross-program integrated care centres,
- through a redefinition of the role of Community Nursing in order to provide more acute level care in the community, for example cancer nurses, Hospital in the Home arrangements; and
- through the development of Community Health "in-reach" services into the major hospitals.

Integration with General Practice

These projects will support the sustainability of the sector and provide additional capacity to respond to the challenges of chronic disease through:

- work to progress general practice provision of state-funded community health services;
- developing a demonstration site in Launceston;
- developing a consistent Departmental policy concerning the availability of support arrangements for general practice;
- closer links between rural General Practitioners and acute hospitals, especially for training and support;
- co-location of general practice and state health services will occur where this is possible and would benefit service arrangements;
- funding demonstration sites, in both urban and rural communities, of new chronic disease/ community and population health initiatives using a team approach incorporating community health and general practice; and
- following the evaluation of demonstration sites, as benefits are proven and resources become available, it is envisioned that these initiatives will become established elements of Tasmania's primary health service system.

Integration with other parts of Community Health (the Primary Health Partners)

These projects will promote improved communication and collaboration between primary and community health services:

- through the development of consultation, liaison and outreach services from Alcohol and Drug Services and Mental Health Services to primary health centres;
- through the development of Home and Community Care services which prevent or delay, decline and promote client independence (with a percentage of the funding allocation attributed specifically to rural and remote areas); and
- through the development of Primary Health Partnerships at the local level incorporating both local service providers from general practice, non-government organisations and State and Local Government as well as community representation.

Workforce Sustainability

Projects to make Tasmania's health workforce stronger and more sustainable include:

- increased support, through General Practice Workforce Tasmania, to aid in the recruitment of general practitioners to Tasmania;
- implementation of Nurse Practitioners working in rural health teams in 2008;
- consideration of new workforce models to meet the new service requirements eg generic health degrees that will equip health providers to undertake lifestyle counselling and support in relation to chronic disease, increased utilisation of therapy assistants, direct care providers; expanded scope of practice for rural paramedics; and
- consideration of retention strategies that can assist existing health professionals to stay in the workforce.