



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

General Practice integration

Tasmania's Health Plan recognises general practice as a key component of primary health services. The Memorandum of Understanding "Collaboration for Improved Health Outcomes" between DHHS and General Practice Tasmania is one way we work together.

There are three projects working towards a closer integration between general practitioners and state health services. Each of these can be divided into smaller subprojects.

GP01 Primary Health working with General Practice on chronic disease

- a) Develop a whole of state strategy for General Practice
- b) Develop a policy framework to guide General Practice provision of state funded community health services
- c) Develop a consistent DHHS policy concerning the availability of support arrangements for General Practice.
- d) Development of demonstration services for GP provision of state funded community health services.

The Tasmanian Government funds GP North to operate this service, known as *GP North Allied Health*. This new service improves access a range of multidisciplinary allied health services. It operates in the Northern Region for people who have a chronic disease (initially stable type 2 diabetes).

- e) Evaluation of demonstration outcomes
- f) Expansion of GP provision of state funded community health services.

GP02 DHHS and GP Links (with mental health services, alcohol and drug services)

Strengthen links between a range of DHHS services, such as mental health, drug and alcohol services for example, with General Practice to foster a multi-disciplinary team approach to action around chronic disease.

GP03 Sustainable General Practice

- a) Develop principles and policies for the engagement of General Practice
- b) Increase support through GP Workforce Tasmania for GP recruitment.

GP Workforce Tasmania has been working intensively on this project since July 2008 when the Tasmanian Government provided funding to boost their efforts to recruit and retain GPs for Tasmania. They provide personalised support to new rural GPs and their families and also work in partnership with consenting rural GP practices to develop business and clinical processes to help manage patient demand. This reduces the potential for GP burnout and the loss of an essential service to rural hospitals and rural communities. GP Workforce Tasmania has focussed on some areas known to be particularly at risk and has already achieved significant results.

For further information:

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www.health.tas.gov.au/futurehealth

March 2009