



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN Clinical Services Plan

Implementation Newsletter Issue 2, September 2007

From the implementation team

The first steps towards moving the Clinical Services Plan off paper and into reality have begun.

A draft implementation plan was released for comment on 17 August, with feedback due by the end of September.

In parallel, early planning for some priority projects has begun.

It's important to remember that the Clinical Services Plan is a 15-year blueprint for safer and more sustainable public hospital services.

The entire plan won't be implemented overnight, by the end of the year, or even over the next year. Some of the foreshadowed changes will happen as a priority, but others will happen over time.

I can assure you that the process of consultation with staff, the community and other stakeholders that led to the development of the Clinical Services Plan will continue as it is implemented. Everyone affected will have the chance to have their say and be involved in the process.

The implementation, coordination and support team is based in Acute Care Strategies and Reform. We aim to keep you updated on progress through regular communications, including this newsletter. And we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions.

Michael Pervan

Director, Acute Care Strategies and Reform

Contact the implementation team

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Project updates

The Clinical Services Plan is made up of almost 80 projects which will be gradually implemented over the 15-year life of the plan. Groundwork has already started on two key statewide projects.

Tasmanian Cancer Network

Work is underway on the development of a new clinical network for cancer services across Tasmania – the first network to kick off under the Clinical Services Plan.

A clinical leader to guide establishment of the Tasmanian Cancer Network and implementation of its activities is expected to be appointed within the next two months.

A full-time project officer should be on board by October, joining Project Coordinator Jane Wood.

A steering committee and advisory group have been formed and are planning their first meetings.

Tasmania's Health Plan recommends the establishment of a number of clinical networks to formally link clinicians working in primary care, hospitals and specialist centres. They aim to improve collaboration between clinicians and coordination of services across the state.

Where patients are cared for by several different health professionals in different settings, clinical networks foster continuity of care.

The establishment of a managed clinical network for cancer services in Tasmania is supported by CanNET, a Cancer Australia initiative funded by the Australian Government.

It is expected to act as a blueprint for other statewide clinical networks.

A fact sheet on clinical networks is online at www.health.tas.gov.au/futurehealth.

For more information contact Jane Wood (Project Coordinator) on 6233 2106 or at jane.wood@dhhs.tas.gov.au.



Review of patient transport and accommodation services

A meeting aimed at progressing a coordinated statewide patient transport and accommodation service took place in Hobart on 31 August.

The exploratory meeting involved representatives of all programs currently providing such services within the DHHS and the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.

It confirmed an overall project objective of providing a statewide, centrally-located service incorporating all existing programs, and committed to consultation with the many volunteer bodies which also provide transport and accommodation programs.

The meeting took stock of existing schemes, identified some issues impeding their efficient use, and discussed synergies across the two state departments in this area.

The project working party was formalised, and a project plan is being developed for discussion at the next meeting on 5 October.

Project manager is Michael Pervan, Director of Acute Care Strategies and Reform.

Tasmania's Health Plan proposes improving patient access to health services by reforming and strengthening systems for both urgent and non-urgent patient travel between hospitals, as well as health-related community transport. It envisages central coordination of non-emergency transport, ambulance transport, medical retrieval and accommodation services.

For more information contact Amanda McAully (Project Officer) on 6233 9064 or at amanda.mcaully@dhhs.tas.gov.au.

Draft implementation plan

Staff and stakeholders have until 28 September to feed back on the proposed strategy for implementing the Clinical Services Plan.

The draft implementation plan (online at www.health.tas.gov.au/futurehealth) has been available for comment since 17 August.

It is not aimed at detailing how every element of the Clinical Services Plan will be implemented – rather, it has been drafted to guide departmental staff who will be involved in developing and launching new or revamped acute care services under the Plan. It sets

out a broad approach and project management framework.

Individual project plans as well as timelines and budgets will be developed for all projects within the Clinical Services Plan as they come online.

You can be involved by giving us your views on the draft implementation plan by 28 September. Comments can be emailed to clinicalplan@dhhs.tas.gov.au.

The Mersey situation – what does it mean for Tasmania's Health Plan?

Most of Tasmania's Health Plan will be unaffected by the planned Commonwealth takeover of the Mersey hospital.

Dr Heather Wellington, who contributed to development of the Plan, has agreed to revise the document to incorporate the takeover, which will effectively remove the Mersey from the state's public hospital system.

Services proposed for the Mersey hospital under the Plan – such as a new centre of excellence for day surgery – will need to be reallocated.

Consultative forum on employee issues

Health sector unions have been invited to take part in consultative meetings starting in early October to discuss any employee-related issues that may arise from the implementation of Tasmania's Health Plan.

The meetings, to be chaired by DHHS Secretary Peter Hoult, will provide opportunities to discuss issues that may affect more than one site under the Plan. Site-specific industrial consultative committees will be formed separately.

The organisations invited to take part are the Australian Medical Association, Australian Nursing Federation, Community and Public Sector Union and Health and Community Services Union.

www.health.tas.gov.au/futurehealth