

Public Submission Cover Sheet

Please complete this sheet and submit with any attachments to the Sustainable Health Review Secretariat

Your Personal Details

This information will be used only for contacting you in relation to this submission

Title	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Dr x <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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Publication of Submissions

Please note all Public Submissions will be published unless otherwise selected below

- I do not want my submission published
- I would like my submission to be published but remain anonymous

Submission Guidance

You are encouraged to address the following question:

In the context of the Sustainable Health Review Terms of Reference listed below, what is needed to develop a more sustainable, patient centred health system in WA?

1. Leveraging existing investment in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary healthcare, as well as new initiatives to improve patient centred service delivery, pathways and transition;
2. The mix of services provided across the system, including gaps in service provision, sub-acute, step-down, community and other out-of-hospital services across WA to deliver care in the most appropriate setting and to maximise health outcomes and value to the public;
3. Ways to encourage and drive digital innovation, the use of new technology, research and data to support patient centred care and improved performance;
4. Opportunities to drive partnerships across sectors and all levels of government to reduce duplication and to deliver integrated and coordinated care;
5. Ways to drive improvements in safety and quality for patients, value and financial sustainability, including cost drivers, allocative and technical efficiencies;
6. The key enablers of new efficiencies and change, including, research, productivity, teaching and training, culture, leadership development, procurement and improved performance monitoring;
7. Any further opportunities concerning patient centred service delivery and the sustainability of the WA health system.

Submissions Response Field

Please type your response into the field below. Alternatively you may provide your submissions as a separate attachment (Suggested Maximum 5 pages).

Introduction

The Pilbara University Centre (PUC) Advisory Group represents a broad range of community stakeholders concerned about and engaged in the provision of educational, commercial, industry, health, local government and community services in the Pilbara region. The group has come together to advance the creation of a Pilbara University Centre in order to develop the provision of tertiary education services for residents in the Pilbara.

The Advisory Group includes the following members:

- Kylah Morrison (chairperson)
- Monica Moran (secretary)
- Camille Barton (committee member)

PUC Advisory Group – Health Priorities

The Pilbara region struggles to attract and retain a consistent health workforce to provide a local, integrated, patient centred health system. This is a major challenge the region.

A significant factor impacting on the training and provision of an adequate health workforce is:

- The lack of access to local tertiary training which results in potential health professionals leaving the region to access training in the city or forgo training altogether. This represents a missed opportunity for those students and the Pilbara community as a whole

The health sector represents a significant area of future growth globally. The Pilbara communities recognise the need to diversify the economy beyond the resources sector. A strong, well-resourced health sector will support sustainable employment in the region, and access to university-level educational opportunities will support the development and overall sustainability of the sector. The PUC Advisory Group contends that health professionals are more likely to move to and remain in regional areas if their personal and professional goals can be met there. The PUC model offers opportunities for health professionals to undertake development activities including further study, working as a tutor in their field and networking with their peers, supporting their professional development/aspirations in the longer term.

TOR 1: Leveraging existing investment in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary healthcare, as well as new initiatives to improve patient centred service delivery, pathways and transition;

Significant investment has been made in the Pilbara region over the past several years (South Hedland Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus, North Regional TAFE Nursing facilities etc.). The adoption of the PUC model could see these world class facilities leveraged (through the appropriate certifications etc.) to support the delivery of practical components of health care courses and to accommodate the resultant increased number of student practical placements. Additionally the PUC model capitalises on local 'expertise' to deliver tutorials in their area of expertise, providing further opportunity to leverage existing investment to support the next generation of health professionals and contributing to the attraction/retention of staff by providing opportunities for ongoing professional development.

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Recommendations:

- *Recognition and support for PUC from all levels of government.*
- *Reduction of red tape and explicit institutional support to allow WACHS employees to collaborate with PUC in service development and delivery in a range of educational activities, enhancing their skills and sharing responsibility for educating our future workforce. This could be done via mechanisms such as the development of honorary academic positions for interested WACHS personnel across the Pilbara.*
- *Support from WACHS for the co-development of student lead interprofessional training wards and clinics to ease the current health delivery burden experienced in many parts of the Pilbara and provide students with authentic, hands-on learning opportunities.*

TOR 3: Ways to encourage and drive digital innovation, the use of new technology, research and data to support patient centred care and improved performance;

Delivery of health services to patients outside the metropolitan area is an ongoing challenge across Australia, but particularly in the Pilbara region. Supporting students to complete their studies in health locally will be supporting a generation of practitioners that will develop an intimate understanding of these challenges, fostering a future workforce well placed to innovate and address them. Additionally by supporting the engagement of more rural students, universities will be encouraged to develop programs and innovations to both meet the needs of those students but also capitalise on their experience and challenges to develop rurally based learning activities and programs to support the needs of the patients the students will eventually serve.

Recommendation

- *Access to IT platforms and resources are made available to ensure that PUC students are exposed the latest e-health an e-learning methodologies. This may be achieved by sharing of resources and facilities between WACHS and PUC.*

Terms of Reference 6: The key enablers of new efficiencies and change, including, research, productivity, teaching and training, culture, leadership development, procurement and improved performance monitoring;

Health professional education across the professions tends to be delivered in centralised institutions almost always located in major metropolitan centres. There is good evidence that students from rural and remote backgrounds are less likely to be able to avail of tertiary training in distant cities. A regional/rural approach to training students is highly desirable to create a more equitable and achievable educational pathway for students wishing to pursue training in the health professions. The current proposal for the establishment of a Pilbara University Centre (PUC) in Karratha provides an opportunity for students to complete significant components of their health training closer to home if educational providers can be persuaded to offer their programs in a rural/remote setting. The Geraldton University Centre has shown positive outcomes in addressing health workforce inequities in the Mid-West region.

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As a multi-university model of delivery, the PUC can support a more sustainable educational approach than a single provider model. By partnering with multiple institutions the PUC can support students over a broader range of courses and can negotiate new partnerships to maintain course provision if a single provider chooses to stop delivering a course (a situation which has led to previously offered courses being ceased in the region). The PUC model offers the opportunity for efficiencies and cost savings by bringing offerings from multiple providers 'under the one roof' allows for the efficient allocation of space and use of resources whilst providing students with an alternative to the 'online only' model currently only available to most of them.

Recommendations:

- *Public investment to contribute for the sustainability of Pilbara University Centre.*
- *Recognition by Government of universities prepared to move into rural delivery activities via PUC model.*
- *Linked research investment into PUC model to generate evidence regarding outcomes and contributions of such a model to the Pilbara and to the state more broadly.*