



Sustainable Health Review

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

South West Region Public Forum

Bunbury / Friday, 20 October 2017

SUMMARY

Public Forums are being held in metropolitan and regional areas to provide input on developing a more sustainable and patient centred health system in Western Australia.

This Summary outlines major themes from the workshop only and is intended to be indicative of the more extensive information from the forum that will be provided to the Sustainable Health Review Panel to consider. This material is not to be regarded as endorsed by the State Government.

To keep in touch with the progress of the Review and for lodgement of Public Submissions, please go to www.health.wa.gov.au/sustainablehealthreview.

The Sustainable Health Review Panel would like to thank all participants for their contributions to improving our health system.



THE BURNING ISSUES

From a large number of identified concerns, the following burning issues stood out:

- Lack of focus on primary health, self management, prevention and population health to ease the burden on the hospital system
- Continuity of care needs improvement so that the patient is able to get ongoing access to the same practitioners, and pathways and transitions across sectors and providers are clear and streamlined
- Currently 60% of people nationally are health illiterate and this number increases for people who can't access the internet
- Access to health care is still difficult for some marginalised and vulnerable groups of people
- Increasing chronic illnesses arising from poor dietary choice are a major public health issue
- More resourcing is needed into public health research in areas such as breast cancer, diabetes, Lyme Disease, etc
- Lack of clarity about what health services WA Health is responsible for, into the future
- Not enough specialists in the public health system in regional centres
- The need to overcome the silo mentality between Health and other Government Departments and increase Local Government partnerships in the provision of health services

THE CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS THAT WE MUST HAVE

- Planning effective partnerships and integrated funding approaches
- Determining the level of services provided and equity of service provision between the hospital and community, metro and regional
- Educating the community to take greater responsibility for their own health care
- The need for greater flexibility and inclusion in the health system
- Better navigation across health care to find the services and support groups needed
- Prioritising health funding at a Government level
- Preventative and primary health to reduce impacts on the acute sector
- The need to revisit Lyme Disease
- The need to analyse and rationalise cost drivers in health
- Centralised data sharing



SUGGESTIONS FOR A GREATER FOCUS ON PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION IN HEALTH (IE: HEALTH LITERACY AND LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF)

- Boost access to health shop fronts in the community
- Partnership between Health and Local Government to provide Health Promotion Officers as part of the new requirement for Public Health Plans for communities within 3 – 5 years
- Significant initiatives to build health literacy



SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE CONSUMER AND HEALTH SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

- Boost care coordination and health navigation functions
- Identify the gaps between State, regional and local level services and focus on those gaps
- Simple, fact based information that highlights the impacts and choices for individuals
- Encourage the uptake of My Health Record

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUNDING MODELS THAT SUPPORT SERVICES THAT WORK AND AVOID DUPLICATION

- Clear mapping of where funding is allocated within a region
- Use of a Board style mechanism to make effective and efficient decisions on the distribution of funding
- State to outsource more of its service delivery
- Focus on integrated models of care

SUGGESTIONS FOR SEEING HEALTH AS AN IMPORTANT INVESTMENT BALANCED AGAINST OTHER STATE PRIORITIES

- Use equity as the overlay for Government decision making
- Highlight the financial implications on health of decisions by other parts of Government
- Seek community input and perspectives on the importance of the health spend