

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Organisation	City of Karratha
First Name(s)	Mark
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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?

- Leveraging existing investment in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary healthcare, as well as new initiatives to improve patient centred service delivery, pathways and transition;
- 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;
- Ways to encourage and drive digital innovation, the use of new technology, research and data to support patient centred care and improved performance;
- Opportunities to drive partnerships across sectors and all levels of government to reduce duplication and to deliver integrated and coordinated care;
- Ways to drive improvements in safety and quality for patients, value and financial sustainability, including cost drivers, allocative and technical efficiencies;
- The key enablers of new efficiencies and change, including, research, productivity, teaching and training, culture, leadership development, procurement and improved performance monitoring;
- 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).

1. At the forefront of the issues for the wellbeing of the Karratha community is preventable hospital admissions and presentations for non-emergency conditions to the emergency department. Much of this needs to be addressed by having an affordable, accessible, and effective primary care sector. We struggle to maintain GP services in a number of our towns.
2. Having an adequate complement of diversely qualified and regionally proficient GPs is essential to keeping people out of hospitals and clear of emergency departments. Potential innovations in this area include:
 - Encouraging interaction between hospital doctors and community doctors through joint peer networking opportunities and joint professional development opportunities. There is little or no dialogue at the moment between hospital and community doctors.
 - Facilitate discussions between hospital administration and community General Practice on the issue of enabling community GPs to admit and manage patients in hospital and hospital doctors to exercise rights of private practice to work part time in community general Practice.
3. The City of Karratha recommends that telehealth services be included as part of the Medicare rebate scheme. We continue to experience difficulties in maintaining resident general practitioners and the extent of locum services required makes service delivery prohibitively expensive. Telehealth capability in times when local practitioners are unavailable will significantly enhance the local service capability.
4. The northwest of WA is underserved in the area of medical imaging. Acknowledging the proposed installation of upgraded CT facilities in the new Karratha Health Campus, the nearest MRI medical imaging service is Geraldton. Intra-regional travel is currently inefficient, time consuming and expensive. Consequently, patients are regularly flown to Perth for an MRI which unnecessarily impacts the PATS scheme. A local MRI service in Karratha would decrease patient inconvenience and service costs.
5. On a broader note there is a major system issue relating to the funding of health related programs and commissioning of local service providers through a range of State Departments. Police, child protection, community services, Health are all players in the Health space and there has to be a better alignment through common needs assessments and agreed priorities at the regional level to avoid duplication of effort, proliferation of providers working in silos and implementation of short term projects (the seagull approach).