

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

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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).

I have worked in every tertiary and speciality tertiary hospital in Western Australia. I have noticed that the organisational culture directly affects how efficient or wasteful a workplace is. In the smaller tertiary hospitals (eg: Fremantle circa 2012), if something wasn't working or set up correctly you were only one or maximum two degrees of separation from the person who could arrange for that issue to be fixed. Whether it was inappropriately expensive kit being used for a simple task or a patient flow issue, it wasn't hard to get things improved. King Edward, another small hospital, has this characteristic. The larger institutions, can, at times, seem like no one is able to affect change. You ask people around you "who can fix this issue, make this better?" and the answer is "I don't know, maybe the CEO?". Contacting a busy senior executive to tell them a bit of kit is too expensive or wasteful is a bar too high, so people just continue the wasteful practice.

The further centralised decision making is in an institution, the more waste I witnessed. The hospitals where front line staff, in their small working units, were empowered to make changes to improve their workplace were the happiest and most efficient places I have worked in my near decade in WA health.

On a different note, WA Health is the biggest or one of the biggest users of energy in the WA public service. There appears to be no appreciation for this and very little effort made to act 'sustainably' with regards to energy use. Most households have more sophisticated approaches to turning lights and computers off when not in use. The waste of energy resources needs to be considered not only because of it's economical impact but the health impacts of global warming. The World Health Organisation has labelled global warming one of the biggest threats to health this century, WA health should be at the forefront of minimising government carbon emissions.