

Delivering a

# Healthy

Western Australia

## WA Health Strategic Directions 2005

The Health Reform Committee's (HRC) final report "A Healthy Future for Western Australians" sets out a clear plan for major health reform. This report for the first time provided a long-term vision and road map for the future of health care in Western Australia.

The report outlined 86 recommendations to be carried out to fundamentally reconfigure the Western Australian health system over the next 10 to 15 years.

Implementing the individual recommendations is a complex process as there are a great number of initiatives to be undertaken. The Health Reform Implementation Taskforce (HRIT) is addressing the reform implementation process through a structured management approach.

One of the first tasks of the HRIT was to identify 10 major program areas for grouping the 102 health reform projects. Within each of the 10 program areas there are a number of individual projects of varying size, complexity, cost and time frames.

A Work Plan has been completed which provides a detailed view of how implementation of the recommendations from the HRC final report will occur, including the current status for each of the reform projects. It also outlines the accountability framework and key roles and responsibilities for delivering the health reform program.

Details on the program areas, Work Plan and individual reform projects are available on the HRIT website at [www.health.wa.gov.au/hrit](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/hrit)

### Developing Strategic Directions

Building on the vision provided by the HRC's final report, the health reform program groupings, project lists and the Work Plan, is the development of a set of strategic directions for the health reform agenda.

The strategic directions together with the health system's operational plan will guide activity for the remainder of the financial year.

The development of strategic directions is the first step in the process of creating a five-year strategic plan for the public health system.

The strategic directions provide a platform for the preparation and delivery of the WA Health Strategic Plan 2005-2010 that encompasses the health system workforce, clinical systems and facilities. Rather than addressing these issues individually or in an ad hoc way, the aim is to provide an integrated, cohesive and common work direction for the whole of the Western Australian health system.

Vital to this work will be the building of community partnerships, strong leadership, nurturing and supporting our workforce and effective stewardship of the public health system resources.

The goal is to deliver a *Healthy WA*.

## WA Health Strategic Directions 2005

The WA Health Strategic Directions 2005 focuses on the key areas where the Department of Health will direct significant and tangible support to improve health services, and enable the system to better deliver its core objective of providing high-quality, safe patient care.

The WA Health Strategic Directions 2005 identifies six priority areas from which the activities of the health system will flow. Coordinating activities from these key areas will provide better direction to enable the health system to be more accountable and sustainable.

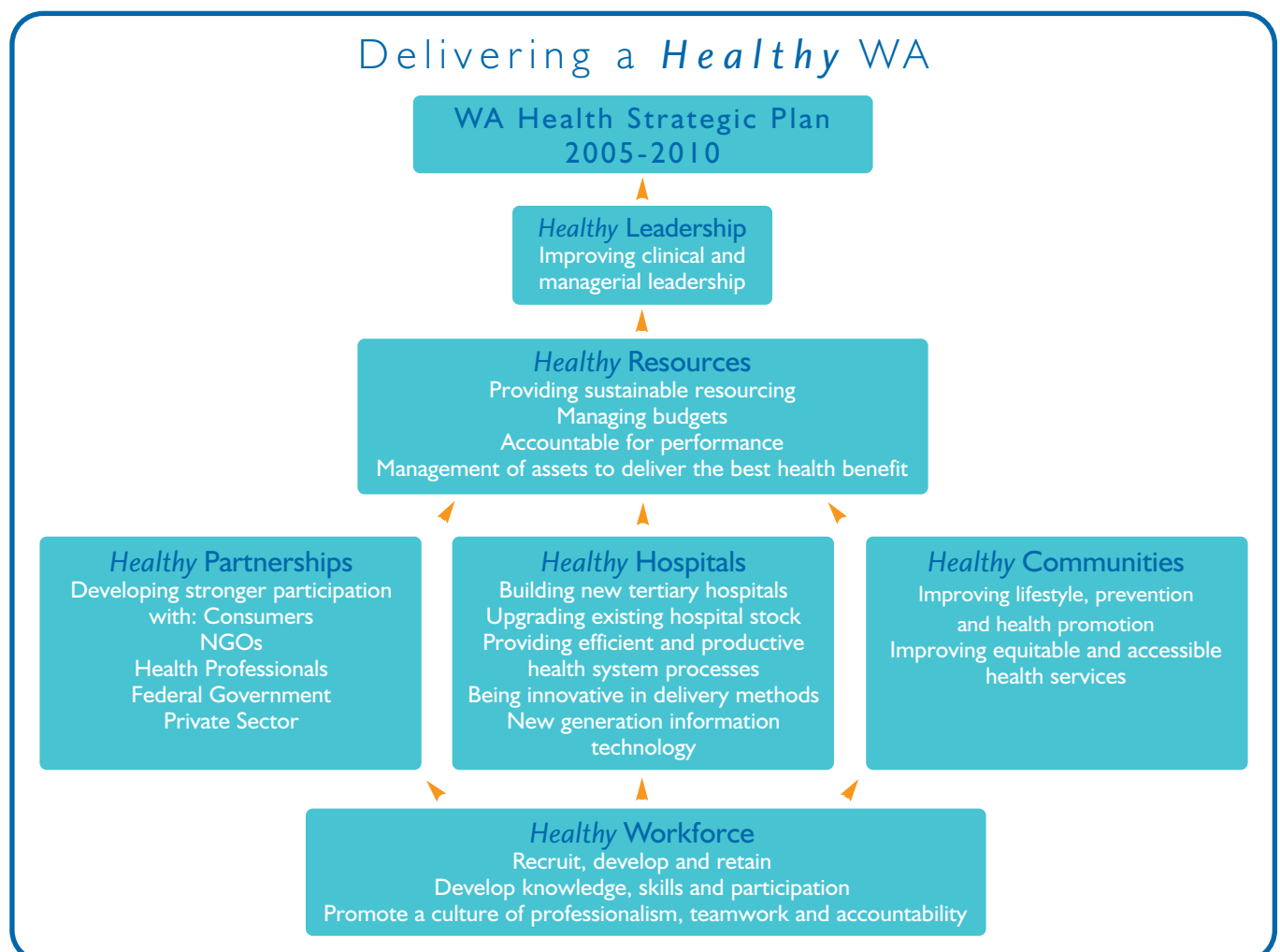
The directions provide a way to not only meet the health needs of Western Australians today, but also to respond to the State's health needs in the future.

The six strategic directions or priority areas are:

- *Healthy workforce*
- *Healthy hospitals*
- *Healthy partnerships*
- *Healthy communities*
- *Healthy resources*
- *Healthy leadership*

The strategic directions provide a framework for consultation and is the first step towards the development this year of the WA Health Strategic Plan 2005-2010.

The WA Health Strategic Plan 2005-2010 will outline the major goals for the public health system, identifying the health outcomes that will be pursued during the next five years, along with implementation processes and how outcomes will be measured.



## Key Priority Areas

The six key priority areas will be addressed in a systematic and coordinated manner across the health system in alignment with the health reform program. Briefly, these areas include:

- *Healthy workforce*

Health system workforce is foundational to the delivery of health reform. It is essential that the health system have appropriate workforce planning tools to enable the system to prepare workforce to meet demand. An extensive strategic workforce plan will be developed which together with the WA Health Strategic Plan 2005-2010 will provide a framework for addressing health workforce issues. It will aim to ensure that workforce shortages are minimised, opportunities are provided for training and professional development and that a high standard of knowledge and skills is achieved and recognised. The Department of Health is committed to providing and promoting a healthy working environment, which inspires staff and enables participation in the 'Delivering a *Healthy WA*' agenda.

- *Healthy hospitals*

A significant proportion of health system activity still relates to hospitals and health services with the key task of delivering safe, high quality clinical services to patients. The Department of Health is committed to providing a range of quality health care services and improving efficiency and access to hospital services throughout the community. This will include a significant hospital building and capital redevelopment program over the next 13 years. The result will be better alignment and integration of clinical services and processes and increased statewide clinical support networks.

- *Healthy partnerships*

There will be an increased focus on creating stronger links and partnerships with other government agencies, non-government organisations, consumers, community groups, private providers, health professionals and the

Australian Government, all of who have an interest in the well being of our health system. Successful implementation of the health reform program will rely on such partnerships in the planning and delivery of innovative, cost effective, and high quality health care services.

- *Healthy communities*

Improving the health of our community is a priority within our health system. Work in this area will focus on things that influence the health of individuals and the whole population. It will include improving lifestyles, working on the prevention of ill health, and the implementation of a long-term, integrated health promotion program in collaboration with government and non-government agencies, General Practitioners and community groups. Priority will also be given to the improvement of community based chronic disease management and on expanding equitable and accessible services in the community.

- *Healthy resources*

The health reform program aims to deliver a sustainable, equitable and accountable health care service to the people of Western Australia. The focus will be on sustainable resourcing and effective management of health budgets. Accountability for health system performance and best management of assets in order to deliver the best health benefits will be a priority for the system. This will include a continuing focus on safety and quality in our health care services.

- *Healthy leadership*

Creating an environment that identifies, nurtures and promotes strong leadership at all levels within health care services and the community is vital to the effectiveness of the health system into the future. A focus will be on recognising, developing and supporting our leaders in order to create a superior health care service and ensure that all strategic directions move forward.

## Next Steps

The formulation of the six key priority areas for the WA Health Strategic Directions 2005 commenced in November 2004. The Department of Health's State Health Executive Forum met in mid December 2004 to endorse these key priority areas. The strategic directions will form the basis of activity and operational plans for the remainder of the financial year. Further information on these areas will be available from staff line managers.

Using the WA Health Strategic Directions 2005 as an initial platform, consultation will be undertaken to assist in the preparation of the WA Health Strategic Plan 2005-2010.

The development of the WA Health Strategic Plan 2005-2010 will be a significant focus for the health system during the next six months.

Other major priority areas for the health system for the first six months of 2005 will be:

- 180 days Operational Plan – Budget 2004/05;
- HRIT program priorities – including the continued role delineation of services and realignment of functions; and
- Finalisation of key appointments of the Area Health Service structures.

The goal for this work is to realign whole of health efforts into a common direction and effort. The health reform program provides health system staff from a wide range of different work areas with enormous opportunities to be part of a collaborative reform process. Staff participation and commitment to the health system's strategic directions will enable the 'Delivering of a Healthy WA'.

## Further Information

Details on the Health Reform Implementation Taskforce activities are available at:

[www.health.wa.gov.au/hrit](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/hrit)

To review the following documents, click on the links below:

- Health Reform Committee's final report *'A Healthy Future for Western Australians'*
- The 10 reform program areas *HRIT Projects*
- The HRIT Workplan *'Health Reform Implementation' Taskforce Workplan - Version 2'*.

Health Reform Implementation Taskforce  
Contact Details:

### Street Address

Ground Floor  
1 Alvan Street  
Subiaco WA 6008

### Postal Address

PO Box 8172  
Perth Business Centre  
Perth WA 6849

Tel: (08) 9489 6111

Fax: (08) 9489 6166

Email: [hrit@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:hrit@health.wa.gov.au)