

Sustainable Health Review

Terms of Reference

Background

In March 2004, the Health Reform Committee report (the Reid Report) set strategic directions for the WA health system including a range of recommendations to reprioritise and reconfigure the WA health system which were endorsed by the State Government.

While a number of major infrastructure projects and other changes have been initiated since 2004, WA's health system continues to experience unsustainable budget growth and faces challenges associated with an ageing population, chronic disease and health inequity. Health expenditure has grown faster than inflation and the economy as a whole, accounting for 52 per cent of overall government expenditure growth between 2013-14 and 2016-17. The WA health system is the largest single expenditure in the WA State Budget representing 30 per cent of expenditure in 2016-17 compared to 24.9 per cent in 2008-09.

The growth in the cost of healthcare has not been accompanied by an equivalent increase in services to the community. This growth is unsustainable, especially in a constrained budgetary environment.

There is significant disruption to health services, including through advances in technology and research. There are increased opportunities to partner across sectors to deliver integrated care.

With the background of these ongoing challenges, the WA State Government has committed to a Sustainable Health Review to put the WA health system on a sustainable footing. This review will do that through putting patients first, whilst driving efficiencies and change through enhancing quality, clinical and financial performance, using innovation and new technologies.

Sustainable Health Review Panel Membership

- Independent Reviewer (Chair);
- Minister for Health Nominee;
- Director General, Department of Health;
- Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury;
- Consumer Nominee;
- Clinical Nominee; and
- Employee Nominee.

Purpose

Provide advice to Cabinet through the Minister for Health to guide the strategic direction of the WA health system to deliver patient centred, integrated, high quality, and financially sustainable healthcare across the State.

Role and Functions

The role and functions of the Panel is to make recommendations regarding:

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. How to best implement any Government-endorsed recommendations arising from the Service Priority Review and Commission of Inquiry into Government Programs and Projects that are relevant to the Sustainable Health Review;
8. The scope and sequencing of implementation of its recommendations in the short, medium and long term, including development of a new 10-year State Health Plan; and
9. Any further opportunities concerning patient centred service delivery and the sustainability of the WA health system.

The Panel is to consider the following areas in its Review:

- Population health and socio-demographics, including chronic disease, mental health, Aboriginal health, and rural and remote health outcomes and access;
- Patient experience, pathways and continuum of care;
- Value, safety and quality of services;
- Innovation and technological advances in healthcare; and

- Opportunities to reduce environmental impacts.

The above issues are to be considered in the context of relevant previous reviews and experiences, particularly within Western Australia but also in other States and Territories, nationally and internationally where appropriate. Wherever possible, the recommendations should be clear and specific.

The Panel is to engage with the Panel undertaking the Service Priority Review and the Special Inquirer undertaking the Commission of Inquiry into Government Programs and Projects to ensure these parallel reviews and inquiries are informed by each other.

Engagement

The Panel will be supported through use of two reference groups:

- Clinical Reference Group; and
- Consumer Reference Group.

The Panel will undertake consultation and dialogue with Health Service Provider Boards, the Mental Health Commissioner, consumer advocates, front-line staff and health leaders, including through Patient First Dialogues. The Panel will invite submissions from the wider community through a public advertisement. The Panel will also engage with key agencies across Government to promote a whole of government approach in the articulation of recommendations.

Term

Unless otherwise agreed in writing by Cabinet, the Panel is required to submit an Interim Report to Cabinet, through the Minister for Health, by December 2017 and a Final Report and recommendations by March 2018.

Secretariat

The Department of Health will provide secretariat support for the Panel including project management, data collection and analysis, the development of working documents, records keeping, facilitation of stakeholder engagement and other functions as required. The secretariat will work under the direction of the Panel.