

Interim Report: Feedback Survey

The Sustainable Health Review Interim Report feedback survey consisted of 14 questions. The responses to the open feedback questions are detailed below. Responses to questions 9-12 have been published in a summarised report on the SHR website.

Your Personal Details	
1. Title	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
2. First Name(s)	
3. Surname	
4. Contact Details	
5. Organisation	Public Health Association of Australia (WA Branch)
6. Location	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WA <input type="checkbox"/> Outside WA
7. Are you providing a response on behalf of your group/organisation or as an individual? (Required)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group/organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____
Q8. Do you consent to your feedback being published, in summaries or in the Final Report? (Required)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I consent to my feedback being published <input type="checkbox"/> I consent to my feedback being published anonymously <input type="checkbox"/> I do not consent to my feedback being published	

The next two questions will allow you to provide more detailed feedback on how to maximise improvements in each of the Directions or suggest other areas or actions for the Sustainable Health Review Panel to consider to develop a more sustainable health system.

13. In regards to the 12 Directions, please provide detailed comments on how to maximise improvements in each of the Directions. Where possible, please indicate which Direction your comments relate to.

Direction 1: Keep people healthy and get serious about prevention and health promotion
Public Health Association of Australia (WA Branch) strongly supports Direction 1.

Promotion of a healthy and supportive environment for health and wellbeing is an important strategy in preventing chronic disease and contributing to a sustainable health system. In our submission to the Review, PHAA WA recommended that the WA Government recognise the important role of prevention in the health system and invest in the area accordingly. It appears that this recommendation has been considered in the Interim Report. It is excellent that the report has recognised that being overweight or obese, tobacco use and excessive drinking are leading causes of preventable hospital admissions. PHAA WA also agrees with the discussion within the report about addressing the social determinants of health, including through partnerships.

While we support Direction 1 and the key issues identified within it, we believe the recommendations for immediate action and areas for further work could better reflect the key issues identified. There is good evidence for what works to prevent harm from alcohol and tobacco. Effective strategies have been identified in various reports, including for example the National Preventive Health Strategy report Australia: The healthiest country by 2020 – the roadmap for action.

The Sustainable Health Review should identify state-based actions that the National Preventive Health Strategy recommends to address alcohol and tobacco harm, and commit to taking action on these, in addition to the recommendation included about working to address childhood obesity. The Review should encourage implementation of evidence-based strategies to address these risk factors.

We understand that public health prevention funding is subject to normal budgetary processes. However, the Review should identify clear targets for increasing public health prevention funding, particularly as it has identified that the proportion of funding allocated to public health has been declining. We recommend the Interim Report also include clear timeframes and targets for action to enable progress to be monitored.

Direction 6: Develop partnerships for Aboriginal health outcomes

PHAA WA strongly supports Direction 6 and the focus on developing partnerships for Aboriginal health outcomes.

The Panel has appropriately identified that providing culturally competent care to Aboriginal people is vital, and improving the cultural competency of health services can increase Aboriginal people's access to health care, increase the effectiveness of health care, and improve health outcomes. The focus on continuing to build the Aboriginal health workforce is an important inclusion.

PHAA WA would recommend Direction 6 have a greater focus on the importance of support and funding for Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations (ACCHOs) as the preferred provider of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wherever possible. While the Interim Report does include ACCHOs as one of the key stakeholders who should be involved in active partnerships for a collaborative approach to funding and service delivery, a

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greater emphasis on their importance in health service delivery should be placed in the report. As PHAA WA noted in our submission to the Review, ACCHOs have a vital and important role in the health care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; being community controlled, they are uniquely placed to provide culturally appropriate care to local communities.

Direction 9: Harness and support health and medical research, collaboration and innovation
PHAA WA strongly supports the Interim Report's focus on generating policy-relevant research and driving research translation into health.

The Interim Report notes that one of the four main categories of research is public health research, which develops and improves disease prevention programs. While the Interim Report has a strong focus on the importance of prevention and health promotion for a sustainable health system, there is limited discussion on the importance of public health research.

Direction 9 should include further detail on public health research, and note that for research funding to contribute to a sustainable health system, it should encompass all areas of health with a focus on public health, prevention and the social determinants of health.

Direction 10 – Develop a supported and flexible workforce

To create a sustainable health sector and workforce, professions other than accredited health practitioners need more opportunities to be upskilled and trained in emerging health trends and evidence, best practice guidelines/standards and training (e.g Mental Health First Aid, ASIST Training, Open Closets Training).

Having a workforce that continually attends accredited training will support staff to make well informed decisions for patients, clients and communities.

One option is to award CPD (Continuing Professional Development) points through training, workshops and/or seminars to non-medical practitioners such as health promotion professionals, mental health professionals, counsellors and social workers and various others. Awarding CPD points makes participating in workshops, seminars and training more attractive to health professionals which may result in a more engaged, skilled and supported workforce that is adaptable and flexible to changing work environments and, health trends and priorities.

14. Is there anything else that the Panel has missed so far that is important in developing a more sustainable health system for Western Australia?

See response to Question 13.