

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 consent to my submission being published

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).

There are significant increases in preventable 'lifestyle' illnesses and mental health issues. These illnesses do not develop in a vacuum; they develop in the places where people live and work and where they spend their travel and recreation time.

The geographical foundations for preventative health and maintaining community well-being are in land use and transport planning, which either enable or disable active transport. Planning and transport decisions which may be cheaper options in the short term can have longer term costs in terms of public health, which are not taken into account.

Maintaining or improving tree canopies (including street trees) can significantly reduce the urban heat island effect with its associated health impacts. There also needs to be recognition of the contribution that parks, nature reserves and green open spaces make in encouraging more active lifestyles and providing beneficial time in nature.

Where the role of local government in public health is considered it is important to note that local governments vary significantly in size, budgets and capacity to take on additional responsibilities. The areas where most local governments are already active in enabling or promoting healthy lifestyles by maintaining parks, ovals, nature reserves, community facilities and path networks are often taken for granted.