



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN COMMUNITY NURSING

FACT SHEET

What is Tasmania's Health Plan?

- A comprehensive Health Plan that focuses on services and clients
- Includes both the Primary Health and Clinical Services Plans
- It is a road map for the development of all health services for the next 5 – 10 years
- Planning for the changes will commence immediately in some areas while other strategies will take time to implement
- It is likely that the reform process will affect all health services over a longer period of time

Why do we need to change?

Our health system is facing a number of unprecedented challenges:

- Dealing with an explosion in chronic disease
- A rapidly ageing workforce and difficulties recruiting new staff
- Maintaining safe, quality services
- Providing services for an ageing population
- Managing increases in costs of health care

Why do we need to re-focus Community Nursing?

- It is recognised that community nursing services are highly valued by the community and that nurses who work within them are committed to providing good service within the current service model.
- As with a number of primary health care services, community nursing as it is currently structured and funded, is not able to provide the range of services now needed especially the prevention, early detection and community based management of chronic disease
- There is an urgent need to address these issues in a systematic and considered way if Tasmania is to have a health system that is sustainable and able to meet the current and changing needs of its community.
- The role of community nursing needs to be examined in relation to the future health needs of Tasmanians and a process must be established to determine how to get the best health outcomes from the effective use of this valuable professional resource.

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What will these changes mean for Community Nursing Clients?

- There will be no immediate changes for community nursing clients, who will continue to receive appropriate services
- A reconfiguration of community care roles and responsibilities is required and this can only happen over a period of time
- Eventually it is expected that a range of specialised community nursing services and clinics will be available for clients with chronic conditions

What will these changes mean for Community Nursing Staff?

- Over time community nursing services will be re-focussed towards the treatment and management of chronic diseases. This will require careful consideration of current roles and responsibilities and will be supported with education and training.
- Some community nursing roles will be redefined in order to provide more acute level care in the community e.g. cancer nurses, hospital-in-the-home, specialist community nurse clinics
- Participation with a range of clinicians and health professionals in the development and operation of clinical networks once established

How will the changes be managed?

These changes will be introduced over time and in consultation with community nurse managers and community care staff and key stakeholders

How can I find out more about the changes?

- Read Tasmania's Health Plan
- Visit the DHHS Intranet site Future Health - www.health.tas.gov.au
- Talk to your manager or supervisor
- Ring the Future Health Hotline - 1300 795 311
- Read one of the Fact Sheets or Pamphlets

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