

Primary Health Care Coordination

The National Primary Health Care Strategic Framework provides a vision for primary health care in Australia which aims to:

- improve health care for all Australians, particularly those who currently experience inequitable health outcomes
- keep people healthy and prevent illness
- reduce the need for unnecessary hospital presentations
- improve the management of complex and chronic conditions.

The Primary Health Networks (PHNs) develop and support evidence-based health pathways, capacity development in general practice, and data collection and analysis to inform the planning and provision of health services.

Through PHNs, the Commonwealth can establish primary health care as the cornerstone of an innovative, responsive and strong health system.

35% of Australians have a chronic condition, and 20% have two or more chronic conditions, making care more complex and requiring input from a number of health providers or agencies.

The Primary Health Care Advisory Group reported patients with chronic and complex conditions are high users of health services, but services for this patient cohort can be fragmented and poorly linked with secondary services.

AHHA POSITION:

- ✧ Bipartisan strategic frameworks are required to ensure long-term planning and support for primary health care, with flexible funding to meet community needs.

- ✧ Integrated and coordinated health systems and funding approaches can deliver a seamless transition between sectors and providers of care.
- ✧ The effective and efficient provision and coordination of patient-centred primary health care services is a critical component of a comprehensive health system which can improve health outcomes and reduce overall health care costs and out-of-pocket expenses.
- ✧ Collaboration between PHNs and local hospital/health networks (public and private) can support population health planning and reduction of inequities in health service access and health outcomes.
- ✧ Health Care Homes will assist in providing continuity of care, coordinated services and a team-based approach according to the needs and wishes of the patients and will build on the efforts of PHNs that are already developing such services in their areas.
- ✧ The diversity of the environments in which PHNs operate requires flexibility and innovation in organisational structure and the ability to develop effective partnerships, particularly if they are to be effective in commissioning regional services.
- ✧ The PHN Clinical Councils and Community Advisory Committees must be structured to allow effective representation of clinician and consumer views, as well as communication and collaboration across primary, acute and allied health sectors.

For information: Alison Verhoeven, Chief Executive, 0403 282 501

© Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, 2016. All rights reserved.

Released 3 May 2016