

JustHealth Consultants is the consultancy service of AHHA, launched to support Australian healthcare organisations at national, state, regional hospital and community levels across all sectors to meet complex governance and organisational requirements of today's healthcare system.

### SERVICE EXAMPLE:

## TASMANIAN HEART FAILURE PROJECT: A PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

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**Client**                      **Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia**

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**Services**                    **Provide governance, administration and independent academic leadership of a public-private partnership aimed at reducing the burden of preventable hospitalisations for people living with heart failure in Tasmania.**

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**Context**                    Tasmanians experience the highest rates of heart disease, with heart failure among the top six causes of preventable hospitalisations in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian heart failure project was a collaboration coordinated by the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA), led by Primary Health Tasmania and Heart Foundation Tasmania with support from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia and sponsorship from the Tasmanian Department of Health. The vision was to conduct a project to reduce preventable heart failure hospitalisations in Tasmania. The main focus of the project was to support optimal management of heart failure in the primary care setting.

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**Approach**                The Tasmanian Heart Failure Project used a multi-pronged approach to improve heart failure management involving interdisciplinary professional development, supported quality improvement and general practice clinical care audits with feedback.

AHHA provided governance, administrative and academic leadership for the project. This involved a range of activities including:

- coordination and management of all collaboration communications and meetings;
- project management, ensuring project ran within time and budget;
- data collection, collation and interim and final report writing;
- selection, customisation and utilisation of an evidence-based collaboration evaluation tool;
- stewardship of steering committee and working groups;
- presentation of the project findings at national and international academic conferences;
- publishing of interim and final report.

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**Result**

The Tasmanian heart failure project activities improved the confidence of primary care providers in heart failure management, facilitated general practitioners and practices to undertake quality improvement activities, provided patient resources to improve self-management and provided opportunities for collaboration between acute care and primary care practitioners.

The collaborative partnership functioned well with strengths identified in the themes of synergy, leadership, resourcing and management of the group.

Through proper governance, mutual trust and transparency the public-private partnership contributed to improved heart failure management in primary care.

Collaboration partners expressed that AHHAs administrative and managerial leadership excelled, particularly given the diversity of partners, the geographical distances involved and frequent changes of project personnel during the collaboration.

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**Date completed** September 2018

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