

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:

SYDNEY NORTH HEALTH NETWORK ALLIED HEALTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Client	Sydney North Health Network (Northern Sydney PHN)
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Services	Stakeholder consultation, literature review, strategy development
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Context	<p>Sydney North Health Network was seeking to develop an engagement strategy that would support them to work more closely with the allied health community in their region. While the PHN has strong relationships with general practice, they needed to understand more about the needs and challenges facing the allied health community that they could support. Further they wanted to understand perceptions of the PHN and gauge the interest in receiving support from the allied health community.</p>
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Approach	<p>AHHA reviewed background documentation and undertook a high-level environmental scan to examine other organisation's experience (including other PHNs) in developing and implementing allied health engagement strategies. From this a discussion paper that outlined key areas to explore was developed.</p> <p>A steering group comprising allied health professionals that were engaged with the PHN was formed. Throughout the project the steering group reviewed and provided feedback on consultation materials and the final strategy.</p> <p>A survey was developed and distributed widely through the PHN networks which examined high level questions about engagement preferences and was used to identify people who would be willing to take part in the detailed consultation process. Allied Health peak bodies were also contacted to distribute the survey to their members in the Sydney North Health Network region and identify representatives to participate in the detailed consultation.</p> <p>Roundtables were then held with allied health professionals in the region, using example case studies of past PHN activities to understand perceptions of the PHN and identify key areas of focus for the development of the engagement strategy.</p> <p>More focused consultation then took place via individual interviews and small focus groups.</p>
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Result

Supported by the evidence and stakeholder consultation, AHHA then developed a comprehensive allied health engagement strategy, that identifies:

- The goal and priority areas for the PHN engaging with allied health
- Key action areas
- What success looks like.

The strategy has been accepted by the PHN Board and is now being implemented.

Date completed June 2021
