

Establishing a Local Health Advisory Group PHC Remote CAHS Information

Purpose

Local Health Advisory Groups can provide:

- A mechanism for local Aboriginal people to become more involved in their own, their families and their community's health issues and decisions.
- An opportunity for two-way dialogue between local community people and health service providers to discuss health service delivery issues together and to share responsibility for improved service delivery and future health planning
- An opportunity for local community people to input into Central Australia Primary Health Care Service Strategic Plan
- An opportunity for visiting health staff to discuss their specific programs and community needs with the community
- A mechanism to ensure a two-way flow of health information including relevant health data, KPIs and an opportunity to discuss their priority areas
- A forum that advocates for better access to health resources or improved access to health services
- A forum that enables and supports local involvement in recruiting staff to health team towards improving retention rates of local staff
- An opportunity for local people to become more involved in delivering mandatory ACAP
- An opportunity for the group to assist with an impartial and transparent complaint process
- A forum that could better assess health services / staff impact on the wider community (see [IAP2¹ Public Participation Spectrum](#) tool)

Process

To establish a Local Health Advisory Group, with support from the Primary Health Care Manager, the Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Officer will:

- 1.1 Liaise with Primary Health Care Managers in regards to the establishment of group.
- 1.2 Meet with Elders, Traditional owners and local Aboriginal staff members for approval and support
 - a. discuss the theory and practicalities of health advisory group
 - b. identify other key people in community who may be considered a "right" person to be on the group, including a gender balance.

¹ International Association for Public Participation Australasia

2.3 Community consultations

- a. discuss the theory and practicalities of a health advisory group
- b. discuss composition of group to ensure fair representation of wider community
- c. identify issues of concerns and provide an opportunity to raise issues
- d. identify community desired outcomes
- e. identify and agree on preferred feed-back mechanisms
- f. provide good governance

2.4 Meet with service providers in community e.g. Shire, Health, Government Engagement Coordination (GEC), Education, NGOs, Mens groups, Womens groups

- a. to inform of plan and gain support

2.5 Facilitate Workshops in community to develop Terms of Reference (TOR)

- a. membership
- b. roles and functions
Note: The role and functions of the Advisory Group are advisory in nature. It is not a general decision-making forum and does not consider issues or outcomes on specific cases or with operational matters.
- c. frequency of meetings
- d. type of meeting (function may be incorporated into an existing meeting eg. Shire)
- e. reporting mechanisms
- f. accountability
- g. minutes of meetings

2.6 Workshops will also assist community to:

- a. Identify health issues
- b. prioritise those issues
- c. develop strategies to address identified issues
- d. recommend training for group members / staff / others

2.7 Compile workshop report for:

- a. Central Australia Primary Health Care Services
- b. Community