

Establishing a Local Health Advisory Group PHC Remote CAHS Information

1. 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 that impact or have the potential to impact their lives
- An opportunity for 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 and local community health issues in a non-threatening way
- 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
- A forum that could better assess health services / staff impact on the wider community (see [IAP2¹ Public Participation Spectrum](#) tool)

2. Process

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

2.1 Meet with Elders and Traditional owners 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 (essential to progress any action to establish a group)

2.2 Meet with service providers in community e.g. Shire, Health, Government Engagement Coordination (GEC), School, etc

- a. to inform of plan and gain support

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 concern
- d. identify community desired outcomes
- e. identify and agree on preferred feed-back mechanisms

2.4 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

2.5 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

2.6 Compile workshop report for:

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