

The Transforming Health Peak Consumer and Community Engagement Committee

Communiqué 6

March 2016

The Transforming Health Peak Consumer and Community Engagement Committee was established in July 2015 following recommendations from a consumer and community workshop held in May 2015.

Vickie Kaminski, the newly appointed Chief Transformation Officer provided the Peak committee with an overview of her expectations about implementation in the next 3 years. She spoke about the importance of focussing on the consumer voice, patient and family centred care, as well as quality and health outcomes. She noted the transition of care undertaken between hospitals in the Northern Local Health Network had gone very well and she expected to see similar positive progress with the other Adelaide hospital networks. Vickie is looking forward to working with the Peak committee to continue “keeping it real”. Members asked questions and raised their concerns about consumer access experiences, integrating country and primary health care and addressing current negative perceptions. Vickie noted communication on transforming health needs to be clearer about its impact on the community and the longer term benefits for the community. The Peak committee invited Vickie to refer specific issues to them for advice.

Jane Austin, Director of the Health Performance Council presented progress on an aspect of its work which is to improve the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals in Transforming Health. The May Aboriginal Health Leaders Forum was positive however wider involvement needs to be developed including a collaborative approach with the Peak committee and the broader community.

The Peak committee is also progressing gauging the engagement level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the Local Health Networks and seeking advice from Country Health’s Experts by Experience program.

The Ministerial Clinical Advisory Group has previously convened working groups with consumer involvement to improve patient care on topics such as Stroke, Chest Pain and Orthopaedics and their work is now going through consultation and implementation planning processes. Consumers will soon be invited to participate in new topics such as aged care.

The Transforming Health website is updated regularly and provides information about the program: transforminghealth.sa.gov.au The Health Consumers Alliance also has a page on Transforming Health and you can subscribe to HCA’s eNews at www.hcasa.asn.au. If you have any questions or comments about this communiqué or Transforming Health, then please do contact Health Consumers Alliance on email info@hcasa.asn.au or telephone 08 8231 4169.

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