

## **The Transforming Health Peak Consumer and Community Engagement Committee Communiqué 1- October 2015**

The Transforming Health Peak Consumer and Community Engagement Committee was established in July 2015 at the request of SA Health and following recommendations from a workshop of community participants in May 2015.

We aim to support the Transforming Health vision “Best care, first time, every time”. Dorothy Keefe, the Clinical Ambassador, briefed the committee on the current progress of Transforming Health and the challenges ahead. Dorothy acknowledged South Australia overall has a good health system however the aim is to create a high quality, sustainable system that works better for everyone.

To facilitate our liaison role with consumers, we will engage with existing organisations such as Local Health Networks, Health Advisory and Consumer Councils and consumer bodies with engagement responsibilities for their advice, support, communication base and expertise. We are in our early days however this should enable a more comprehensive and state wide consumer and community involvement in Transforming Health. Mapping this work will take too many resources so the committee will focus on using many opportunities, including this communiqué, to engage with existing networks and to develop new relationships so it can fulfil its role as the peak consumer and community engagement committee.

We meet monthly and intend to issue a communiqué after each meeting. We encourage consumers and community to contact us with comments or questions through Health Consumer Alliance on email [info@hcasasn.asn.au](mailto:info@hcasasn.asn.au) or telephone 08 8231 4169.

SA Health representatives attend the committee meetings to provide Transforming Health updates and for the committee members to raise any consumer or community concerns. Dorothy Keefe also intends to meet regularly with the committee to exchange information on what is working well and what can be done to improve consumer and community experience with health services.

We developed our action plan based on the themes arising from the May workshop. The first theme we intend to address is access. Members are considering access at its broadest social determinants of health level, through to the, at times, very frustrating and challenging experience of transport and parking at health services.

The May 2015 workshop recognised that to be effective the committee should not be too large; therefore not all interest groups would have a nominated representative. The committee however recognises its responsibility to all consumers and communities.

Membership of the Transforming Health Peak Consumer and Community engagement committee is available at this [link](#).

Michael Cousins, Chief Executive Health Consumer Alliance, is chair of this committee.

