

Transforming Health Peak Consumer and Community Engagement Committee

Communiqué 2 – November 2015

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.

Our initial focus is access, one of the themes of our action plan from the May workshop. We appreciate there are significant issues for consumers relating to transport, travel, accommodation and parking. We would like a clearer picture of how these issues are being monitored and addressed as part of the Transforming Health reforms. We are seeking to provide consumers with further clarity and if required, will advocate for improvement.

Our committee has representation from various consumer and community groups including from country South Australia as thirty per cent of metropolitan hospital inpatients are from country SA. We also have members from each of the four Adelaide Local Health Networks (LHN) consumer councils. We are aware the initial reform focus is on the major hospitals in the Southern, Central and Northern Adelaide LHNs, and the committee recognises each LHN will have its own experience of significant change with Transforming Health. We will also seek representation on the committee from the two recently formed Primary Health Networks: one rural and one metropolitan. This will strengthen our work on another of our themes - consumer and community views on linking the major hospitals with general practice.

Members of the committee are provided with a briefing from SA Health at each meeting about the progress of the Ministerial Clinical Advisory Group work on developing new models of care for patient services. Currently there are nine groups working on the following projects: Stroke, Acute Coronary Syndrome, Rehabilitation, Orthogeriatrics, After Hours Senior Clinical Cover, Ambulance Service Guidelines for Noarlunga ED, Allied Health 7 Day Extended Cover, Paediatric Surgery Governance and the Older Persons Discharge Pathway. Each group has one or more consumers involved. Our committee is aware of these consumers and their role and we are providing relevant advice and support.

Our committee understands there are many views written and aired about Transforming Health, we encourage all health consumers to try and get the most accurate information they can about what affects them. This can be through local newspapers, community forums, websites, and health services. The Transforming Health website is updated regularly and provides a great deal of information about the program: transforminghealth.sa.gov.au – you can subscribe to email updates there as well. The Health Consumers Alliance also has a page on Transforming Health and you can subscribe to HCA's eNews at: www.hcasa.asn.au. The committee encourages people to consider applying for the various Transforming Health working groups as advertised on these sites.

If you have any questions or comments about this communiqué or Transforming Health contact Health Consumers Alliance on email info@hcasa.asn.au or telephone 08 8231 4169.

