

## Communique

Wednesday 24 July 2019

The first meeting of the Clinical Leadership Forum (the Forum) was held on Wednesday 24 July 2019.

The Minister for Health attended the meeting where discussion focused on opportunities to further improve the clinical operations and continuous improvement of a high performing health system in the ACT to ensure our community has the very best health care. Opportunities identified by members included:

### Territory-wide Health Service Delivery

- Increased focus on women's health, including gynaecology.
- Developing the network between the ACT and Southern New South Wales Local Health District (SNSWLHD) with a focus on maternal transfers and improving the access to the tertiary maternity and neonatal services for women in the ACT and SNSW.
- Clear role delineation of hospitals across the ACT health system.
- Collaboration across the ACT health system and with SNSWLHD to improve overall access to health services including adult mental health.
- Identifying new models of service delivery, particularly in surgery, mental health, end of life care including palliative care.
- Safety and high reliability of health care, which drives high-performance and better outcomes.
- Improve whole of system care, including transition from within hospital to outside of hospital.
- Engagement of General Practitioners to enable improved clinical handover and a safer system for the community to navigate.

### Health and Medical Research

- Partnerships with universities to leverage research for the Canberra Region Cancer Centre to be a true comprehensive cancer centre for the ACT and region.
- Research into the way in which the community flows through the health system.
- Evidence-based treatment and how it is being used to achieve good outcomes.

### Education and Training

- Partnerships with academic organisations to deliver on leading edge health care.

## Designing a High-Performing Health System

- A health service and system focus to build on the existing solid foundation of services and staff, and to consider what the ACT can do better.
- Engagement with the community and clinicians.
- Working through challenges together.
- Growing, attracting and maintaining a high performing workforce and strong culture.

Key action items considered by the Forum included:

- **Terms of Reference**  
The Forum agreed to propose an increase in the membership from seven to nine with consideration to representation from allied health and a consumer. To facilitate the work plan and priorities of the Forum members proposed the meeting frequency change from quarterly to bi-monthly.
- **Culture Review Implementation**  
The progress of implementing the recommendations from the Culture Review will be a standing agenda item for the Forum meetings.
- **Work Plan**  
Early priorities were identified to inform the Forum's work plan, including development of a communications and engagement strategy, hospital discharges and transition from primary care to community care, and cross border impact on the ACT health system and National Efficient Price.

## Culture Review Implementation

The Forum was also provided with an update on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services and noted the significant work underway in implementing key initiatives against the recommendations.

In line with the Forum's Terms of Reference, the Forum reports to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health. The Forum provides an annual report to the Ministers on the operations and outcomes of the Forum.

The Forum meets bi-monthly with the next meeting is scheduled for 26 September 2019.

Contact: [clinicalleadershipforum@act.gov.au](mailto:clinicalleadershipforum@act.gov.au)

For more information visit <https://www.health.act.gov.au/health-professionals/clinical-leadership-forum>