



## Communiqué for Health Service Providers

March 08

The 3<sup>rd</sup> month of 2008 is well underway and the CHIC Initiative continues to establish local collaborations in the primary health care sector known as Partnership Councils, with the aim of enhancing service coordination, integration and innovation in service delivery. In the first half of this year we would expect to see the remaining two of the earmarked 17 Partnership Councils come on board. The established Partnership Councils will continue to work with their members towards improving the quality and sophistication of the partnering processes and in the joint local decision making around the Service Improvement and Innovation Funding, that is the “doing bucket of funding.”

### CHIC Forum

The Inaugural CHIC Forum was held in conjunction with the Queensland Divisions Forum on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre and provided a snapshot of the progress and future direction of the Initiative. Over 160 delegates from across the primary health care sector of Queensland were in attendance to hear presentations from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Ms Karen Struthers and Prof. Hal Swerissen, and participate in evaluation, consensus building and joint decision making workshops. Stakeholders took the opportunity at the forum to showcase their Partnership Councils’ progress, voice their concerns around specific issues and share learnings with other key stakeholders. Presentations from the recent CHIC Forum have been uploaded on the CHIC website.

### [www.chicpartnerships.com.au](http://www.chicpartnerships.com.au)

The CHIC website is now ‘live’ and will be regularly updated to inform the public and all partners of the progress of CHIC and provide an avenue for consistent and timely communication. The site provides templates and publications for use by Partnership Councils members throughout the various stages of partnership. Partnership Councils will soon have the opportunity to provide input to developing their own home page.

### Progress Update

In the **Northern** Area key service providers in the Cape York hosted their inaugural CHIC Partnership Council meeting on the Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. Local stakeholders and partners in the provision of primary healthcare services have also met in the Cairns & Hinterland region on March 11th to explore the options of setting up a Cairns & Hinterland CHIC Partnership Council. These meetings were well attended with ensuing discussions providing a way forward for the CHIC initiative in these two areas.

The Torres will utilise the CHIC Initiative as an opportunity to enhance coordination of the existing primary health care services provided within the community.

In and around Mackay the Local CHIC Partnership Council will be incorporated into an existing strong partnership structure of primary healthcare providers within the community. The Townsville and Mt Isa

regions are in the process of engaging with their stakeholders with the aim of establishing a meeting to explore the options for Local CHIC Partnership Councils.

The Northern CHIC Advisory Council (formerly Northern CHIC Advisory Group) will continue to provide strategic advice and support for the governance of the CHIC initiative and has invited all geographical districts and established Partnership Councils to submit Service Delivery and Innovation submissions by Mon 7<sup>th</sup> April.

All five Partnership Councils proposed for **Central** Area have now been established. Stakeholders determined the collaborative were best based around the following areas – Brisbane Northside (incorporating Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital and the Royal Children’s Hospital), Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay & Fraser Coast, Central Queensland, and Central West. All Partnership Councils have held inaugural meetings and are progressing toward develop of shared service delivery plans.

Five geographically based Partnership Councils in the **Southern** Area have been established (the Southside, Gold Coast Primary Care, Toowoomba & Darling Downs, West Moreton South Burnett and South West Partnership Councils). Currently, these Partnership Councils are supporting implementation of some 18 projects which were endorsed by the Southern Area CHIC Governance Council to receive Service Delivery and Innovation Funding. Further projects, some with a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health focus, will be submitted to the Southern Area CHIC Governance Council for consideration in April. For further information on this please contact your local CHIC Partnership Council Coordinator or the Area Coordinator Josephine Peat, whose contact details are listed below.

Activities to support relationship development are being undertaken in the Southern Area. A facilitation skills workshop was held in late January for CHIC Partnership Councils’ Coordinators and District Indigenous Health Coordinators in Brisbane. This workshop was the first opportunity for all the Southern Area Partnership Council Coordinators to meet also enabling relationship building and information sharing with the five District Indigenous Health Coordinators. On March the 17<sup>th</sup> the Southern Area Governance Council will participate in a workshop to finalise governance arrangements and undertake strategic action and communication planning.

## Next Steps

- Establish the remaining Partnership Councils, identify auspicing agencies and recruit local facilitators.
- Provide expert collaborative and capacity building support and professional development opportunities for all Partnership Councils and key partners throughout 2008.
- Commence implementation of shared Service Delivery and Innovation Projects.

## Upcoming Events

Statewide CHIC Partnership meeting Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 3-4.30pm QHealth 14<sup>th</sup> Floor 147 Charlotte St

## For Further Information

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