

Connecting Healthcare in Communities - CHIC

Communiqué for Health Service Providers

May 2007

Background

The **CHIC Initiative** is establishing 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. Approximately 20 district level Partnership Councils will be established throughout the state to jointly deliver joint primary health care initiatives within the scope of chronic and complex care, integrated health promotion and illness prevention, early childhood health, community mental health and drug and alcohol services.

Partnership Council members will include community nursing services, general practitioners, Aboriginal Medical Services, Divisions of General Practice, community health, allied health and hospital services. Queensland Health has committed \$34M over 5 years to the initiative.

It is envisaged each Partnership Council will commit to governance arrangements where all members are equal partners in decision making; collaboratively develop local implementation plans; and foster and deliver innovative approaches to shared primary health care service provision.

Update

A partnership approach has also been taken in establishing governance structures at the local, area and statewide levels, to ensure stakeholders are involved throughout the process of development, implementation and evaluation.

The **Statewide CHIC Partnership** has met twice and is providing overarching governance and guidance for the initiative. Its membership includes the Qld Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, Qld Divisions of General Practice, the Combined Health Agency Group (RSL Care, Blue Care, Spiritus, Ozcare, community health etc) and Queensland Health.

The **Area CHIC Partnerships (3)** are in the early stage of consultation and formation and will include similar membership, representative of the key stakeholders in the Area Health Services. These groups will drive implementation, proffer support and assess funding proposals of the District level **Partnership Councils**.

CHIC Guidelines have been developed and will soon be distributed broadly to assist stakeholders with key activities in partnering, resourcing, deliverables, milestones, evaluation and access to expert assistance. A **CHIC Toolkit** providing a step-by-step approach to assist local partners to build on existing collaborations in establishing the Partnership Council will be distributed early in July 2007.

The **CHIC Implementation Team** consists of Sean Lowry, A/Statewide CHIC Coordinator, Ms Nikki Laver, Central CHIC Coordinator and Ms Rosemary Schmidt as the Northern CHIC Coordinator. The Southern CHIC Coordinator is currently being recruited.

Next Steps

Engage expertise to provide capacity building and support in partnership development.
Develop CHIC website and on line newsletter.
Develop Evaluation Framework for Tender.
Continue consultation and development at District and Area levels.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

CHIC Working Group meeting Wed 30th May, 3-4.30pm @ QAIHC

Statewide CHIC Partnership meeting Friday 8th June 12-2pm @ Charlotte St, QHealth

For Further Information

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