

# Connecting Healthcare in Communities - CHIC

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## Communiqué for Health Service Providers

November 2007

### Background

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. Partnership Councils are emerging throughout the state to jointly deliver, locally developed primary health care initiatives within the areas of chronic and complex care, integrated health promotion and illness prevention, early childhood health, community mental health and drug and alcohol services.

Membership of a **Partnership Council** is voluntary and may 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 CHIC Initiative.

The **Statewide CHIC Partnership** is made up of key partners from Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC), General Practice Queensland (GPQ), Queensland Health and the Combined Health Agency Group (CHAG) – a multi-agency group representing Blue Care, Spiritus, Queensland Health Community Health, RSL Care and Ozcare. This group meets regularly to provide shared governance and guide the direction and focus of the CHIC Initiative.

In consultation with local partners varying approaches and timeframes have emerged across each of the three Areas for how the Partnership Councils are established, supported and considered for funding. This flexible approach aims to empower stakeholders with a local sense of control of the process, whilst encouraging the establishment of sustainable partnership structures.

### Progress Update

The **Northern** CHIC Advisory Group has been established and discussions with local stakeholders indicate that Partnership Councils are emerging in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay/Bowen and Mt Isa. The existing Regional Health Forum in Cape York and the well established Torres Partnership will be supported as the key forums for partnering and coordinating new and existing services. Local Partnership Councils in the Northern Area will be invited to submit Service Delivery and Innovation Funding proposals in early 2008.

Key stakeholders in the **Central** Area have discussed the process of establishment and the geographical boundaries of the Partnership Councils. It is anticipated there will be five Partnership Councils, one each in Central West, Central Queensland, Wide Bay & Fraser Coast, Sunshine Coast and Northside (incorporating RBWH, RCH). Queensland Health District Managers have been tasked with responsibility for initiating discussions with their local stakeholders around the creation and early operations of the Partnership Councils. Stakeholders within each geographic region are at varying stages of collaboration, focussing on discussions of membership, auspicing of funds and progressing towards the development of shared service delivery plans. Each Partnership Council has been asked to nominate two representatives for inclusion on the advisory Central Area CHIC Partnership.

**Southern** Partnership councils including Brisbane South, Gold Coast, Toowoomba & Darling Downs, West Moreton South Burnett and South West are well established, with local auspicing organisations commencing recruitment of Partnership Facilitator positions. Discussions are underway with the existing Regional Health Forums in exploring the links between the CHIC Initiative and existing Indigenous planning in the Southern Area. The Southern Area CHIC Governance Council will meet in late November to assess the Partnership Council Service Delivery and Innovation Funding proposals and approve funding.

## Announcements

The role of Partnership Council Facilitator has been filled in Mackay/Bowen and Gold Coast, with the Cairns Partnership Council currently in the process of recruitment. Other Partnership Councils, in the absence of a facilitator are sharing the interim responsibilities among their partners.

## Next Steps

- Ongoing establishment of local Partnership Councils, identification of auspicing agencies and recruitment of Facilitators.
- The request for tenders for the Evaluation of the CHIC Initiative closed on Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Oct with the successful bidder to be announced in early December, with baseline evaluation expected to begin in the first quarter of 2008.
- Service Delivery and Innovation Funding approvals for Southern Partnership Councils – Dec 07
- CHIC website due to 'go live' in December 2007
- Expert collaboration and capacity building support, and professional development opportunities will be available to all Partnership Councils and key partners in early 2008.

## Upcoming Events

Statewide CHIC Partnership Meeting Dec 5, 2007

CHIC Forum (in conjunction with the Queensland Divisions Forum), Brisbane, Feb 28-29, 2008

## For Further Information

Statewide Coordinator	Sean Lowry	Ph: 3237 1473	Sean_Lowry@health.qld.gov.au
Northern CHIC Coordinator	Rosemary Schmidt	Ph: 4019 6410	Rosemary_Schmidt@health.qld.gov.au
Central CHIC Coordinator	Nikki Laver	Ph: 3131 6875	Nikki_Laver@health.qld.gov.au
Southern CHIC Coordinator	Josephine Peat	Ph: 3895 3133	Josephine_Peat@health.qld.gov.au