

Care in your community

Frequently Asked Questions

How will Care in Your Community be implemented?

Care in your community A planning framework for integrated ambulatory health care provides a ten year vision for an innovative, efficient and effective Victorian health system. Implementation of this vision will be undertaken over time - a shared responsibility between all health services. The first 12 to 18 months the focus will be on the priority areas needed to underpin the development of integrated community based health care. All health services will be able to begin to use the planning principles to guide their planning. In addition there will be some focus on trialling integrated area based planning in some areas as a first step and focusing on some of the enablers for integrated care such as workforce, funding and other processes for effective planning.

How many trials are planned and in which areas will they be located?

Three area-based planning trials are to be conducted to test and refine the planning framework set out in Care in your community. A detailed methodology for conducting area-based planning using the approach will be developed and adapted for use in other catchments.

Two metropolitan and one rural planning catchments have been selected to trial integrated area-based planning. Locations are based upon integrated area-based planning catchments as set out in the Care in your community document. The trial locations are:

- Southern Metropolitan Region: South East planning area (covering the local government areas of Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia)
- Eastern Metropolitan Region: Outer East planning area (covering the local government areas of Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges)
- Gippsland Region: trial will be conducted in a regional context, under the direction of the Gippsland Health Services Partnership.

Why were those areas chosen?

These areas were chosen by the Department of Human Services (DHS) for their potential for strong partnerships between agencies by building on existing partnerships such as strong Primary Care Partnerships (PCP's), Population Health Advisory Committees or already developed partnerships for specific purposes such as ICT. These areas have advanced PCP service coordination and preparation for capital investment is already underway.

The service providers in these areas provide a strong platform for delivery of ambulatory care services and have a strong local capacity to manage trial activity in addition to core business.

In addition the site selection is supported by socio-economic demographics as areas of high need and high incidence of ambulatory care sensitive conditions.

Which agencies will be involved in the trials?

Planning in each location will be facilitated by DHS and conducted through a planning network comprising of representative key stakeholders operating within the planning catchment, including at a minimum:

- Health Services
- Community Health Services
- Local Government
- Nursing Services
- Divisions of General Practice.

DHS will be supporting area-based planning by ensuring that all agencies delivering health services, including mental health and drug and alcohol services within the catchments are included.

What if my service is not part of a trial area?

Services not immediately part of a trial site can begin to take steps towards integrated area based planning by incorporating the principles and the framework in their current planning. This may be through strengthening networks that already exist within a planning catchment area or implementing integration components such as service coordination.

How do I classify my service including all sites by level?

Quite detailed descriptions of service levels are provided in Care in Your Community (p 20-21). These can be used to guide classification of your existing service sites. As part of integrated area based planning, an assessment will be made as to the role of each service site in meeting the needs of the community within which it is situated.

What will be the role of Primary Care Partnerships in Implementing Care in Your Community?

PCPs are the main mechanism supported by DHS for integration and partnership across primary care and between primary care and other sectors. This will continue to be the case and PCPs will have an ongoing role in partnerships, service coordination, integrated health promotion and chronic disease management.

The PCP can build on this core role and undertake the planning process if the PCP's member agencies with the support of the DHS Regional Office elect to do so.

If an alternative model is used, the planning network must incorporate the PCP partnership and integration work on service coordination, integrated health promotion and chronic disease management in its processes in an ongoing way.

What about other Governance arrangements / networks that are already in place across the state?

A number of networks and governance arrangements are already in place across catchments and planning networks. In order to accommodate this DHS is not specifying governance arrangements. DHS Regions will facilitate the development of the network required for integrated area based planning to ensure that effort is not duplicated. The experience in the trial sites will assist in showing how this can be done best. It will also be important to ensure that the health network is linked in with broader population planning networks for the best outcome for the population.

Will the Implementation of Care in Your Community affect the way in which agencies are funded in the future?

There are no plans to change the way agencies are funded. Instead integrated planning networks will be able to think flexibly about this and put forward proposals that may involve funding changes such as WEIS conversion. The way in which programs are funded should not be seen as a barrier for networks when thinking about what they would like to implement.

How will I be kept informed of developments throughout the implementation of Care in Your Community?

The Care in Your Community Website at www.health.vic.gov.au/ambulatorycare will be updated regularly with progress reports on the trials and other implementation activity.