

Community Health and General Practice



Progressing partnerships with general practice and
improving GP access for CH clients

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The current health system

- Two-tiered Australian health system
- Access & continuity of care across the system
- Client expectation – A seamless service
- Community health and general practice have shared priorities

What are we working towards?

Strong collaborative partnerships between state funded primary care services and general practice, resulting in coordinated and seamless service delivery and better health outcomes for Victorians.

Access to evidence-based, quality models of care for all, including the most vulnerable

Drivers for collaborative models between Community Health and General Practice

- Increasing burden of chronic disease
 - > 60 % of CH clients have a chronic disease
- Commonwealth priorities aligning with state priorities
- Growing focus on multidisciplinary care
- New MBS items support GPs to take a team approach.

Benefits of CH and general practice shared care partnerships

- CH has a history of successfully providing affordable care for vulnerable clients.
- CH can take a leadership role in provision of care to disadvantaged, high need clients
- Increased referral options for GPs looking for quality health services for patients

Benefits of CH and general practice shared care partnerships

- General Practice is the primary point of health system contact for the majority of Victorians.
- General Practice is increasing its involvement in multidisciplinary care.
- CH working in partnership with general practice can increase client access to range of services.



What we know

- A number of CHSs have successful collaborative CH/GP models in place.
- Evidence has shown that CH and General Practice cannot provide the most effective care in isolation.
- Much can be achieved by working in partnership, particularly for people with chronic disease and the disadvantaged.
- Partnerships that maintain a focus on the needs of shared clients are more likely to be the most successful.

Some words of wisdom from a successful collaboration...

“There was a shared commitment by staff to meeting the needs of highly disadvantaged clients in their locality. This has been a fundamental factor which has motivated staff to bear with the slow and tedious process of trying to make their two very different organisational, financial and technical systems interact.”

- Brunswick Community Medical Centre & Moreland CHS

Access and Continuity of Care through Partnerships

- Some of the main building blocks
 - Planning the right service, right place, right time...
 - Relationship building to establish smooth referral pathways and careplanning processes.
 - Effective systems to improve communication and coordination.
- Primary Care Partnership structure is a vehicle – CHSs are active participants



Making it Happen

- Supporting models of care that improve access to GPs for CH clients
- Supporting the development of alternative models
- Collaborating with Divisions of General Practice
- Strengthening awareness of how general practice operates

