

SYDNEY SOUTH WEST  
AREA HEALTH SERVICE  
NSW HEALTH

Area Health Advisory  
Council (AHAC)  
DRAFT Work Plan

2010-2011



# Introduction

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Under the provisions of the *Health Services Act 1997*, the Sydney South West Area Health Advisory Council (AHAC) was appointed by the Minister for Health in November 2005. The role of an AHAC is to facilitate the involvement of providers and consumers of health services, and of other members of the local community, in the development of the area health service's policies, plans and initiatives for the provision of health services and, more specifically, under the Act to:

- advise providers and consumers of health services, and other members of the local community, as to the area health service's policies, plans and initiatives for the provision of health services,
- seek the views of providers and consumers of health services, and of other members of the local community, as to the area health service's policies, plans and initiatives for the provision of health services, and to advise the Chief Executive of the area health service of those views,
- confer with the Chief Executive of the area health service in connection with the operational performance targets set by any performance agreement to which the area health service is a party under Section 126,
- advise the Chief Executive on how best to support, encourage and facilitate community, consumer and health service provider involvement in the planning of health services by the area health service,
- liaise with other area advisory councils in relation to both local and State-wide initiatives for the provision of health services,
- publish reports (annually or more frequently) as to its work and activities,
- carry out such other functions as are conferred or imposed on it by the regulations.

The current SSWAHS AHAC work plan for 2008-2010 expires in June 2010 and a planning workshop was held in April 2010 to develop a new work plan for 2010-2011. In acknowledgement of the turbulent operating environment, especially the recent COAG agreement which is likely to see the replacement of area health services, the AHAC agreed on a plan that covers just one year.

This 2010-11 work plan builds on the achievements of the 2006-08 plan and is structured to align with NSW State Plan priority areas and the strategic directions in the NSW State Health Plan.

# Intended Outcomes

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The SSWAHS AHAC aims to make a tangible difference by:

- 'hard wiring' community input into the area's decision making
- better informing the community about health outcomes and health services
- making improvements to the area's services for the community

In achieving these outcomes:

- the AHAC will be known, among Area staff and the broader community, as a conduit of information to the Chief Executive
- the AHAC will be respected such that the Area executive routinely seeks the committee's advice and input at the outset of major service planning and development initiatives
- the AHAC will actively influence the work and advice of the state-wide Health Care Advisory Council.

As with the 2008-10 plan, the AHAC agreed that the plan would be a short, focused document incorporating a small number of key initiatives that will best contribute to these intended outcomes while aligning with the government's priorities set out in the *State Plan* (see table 1 for a summary of those priority areas most relevant to the work of the AHAC) and the *State Health Plan* (see table 2 for the seven strategic directions). The plan also incorporates the NSW Health the Director-General's requirements that AHACs across the state play a leadership role in monitoring reforms flowing from the Garling Inquiry.

The AHAC will continue its practice of rotating meetings across the various SSWAHS sites. However, the focus at these site visits will shift from general presentations to implementation of the priorities laid out in this work plan.

**TABLE 1 – STATE PLAN PRIORITY AREAS RELEVANT TO AHACs**

<b>Priority Area</b>	
R4	Increased participation and integration in community activities
S8	Increased customer satisfaction with government services
F3	Improved outcomes in mental health

**TABLE 2 – STATE HEALTH PLAN: SEVEN STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

<b>Strategic Direction</b>	
1	Make prevention everyone’s business
2	Create better experiences for people using health services
3	Strengthen primary health care & continuing care in the community
4	Build regional & other partnerships for health
5	Make smart choices about the costs and benefits of health services
6	Build a sustainable workforce
7	Be ready for new risks & opportunities

# SSWAHS work plan 2010-11

## 1. PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR 2010-11

State Plan <sup>1</sup>	State Health Plan <sup>2</sup>	Activity	SSWAHS AHAC Role	Milestone/ Indicators	AHAC Sponsor
S8 F3	SD1-7	Monitor Garling implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consult with clinicians during site visits to obtain feedback on implementation on-the-ground</li> <li>monitor detailed monthly implementation reports and advise CE on issues arising</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Chair
		Monitor implementation of COAG reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consult with clinicians and community representatives on COAG reforms</li> <li>advocate at state level (via HCAC) for retention of strengths of existing system, including networking</li> <li>monitor regular briefings on implementation</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Chair
S8	SD2	End-of-life care decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>monitor implementation of resources and tools for clinicians and consumers</li> <li>develop KPIs to track progress</li> </ul>	KPIs developed by June 2011	Amanda Walker
S8	SD6	Workforce development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>propose strategies to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase employment of Aboriginal people</li> <li>increase recruitment and retention rates for JMOs and nursing staff</li> </ul> </li> <li>monitor implementation of these strategies</li> </ul>	Targets TBD	TBD

<sup>1</sup> See table 1 for the description of the relevant priority area

<sup>2</sup> See table 2 for the seven strategic directions