

Principles

SWSAHS supports the following principles that underpin community participation, it:

- values and recognises the diversity of the South Western Sydney and Wingecarribee population
- values, welcomes and recognises community representatives and their expertise in the health system
- is willing to negotiate on key decisions
- is committed to building the capacity of the organisation to enable effective community participation
- is committed to providing a range of methods of participation to enable effective community involvement
- ensures that consultation and participation processes are inclusive and provide equity of access for all community members
- ensures that consumers, carers and community members have information about their own health and health care services, on which to base decisions, and that this information is provided in ways that they understand
- is committed to involving communities in making decisions about how they will participate
- provides resources and support to community participation activities and staff
- works in partnership with communities
- promotes a culture of listening, involving and responding to consumers and communities
- is committed to developing services based on the needs of communities and ensuring their needs are understood
- builds trust and credibility throughout the participation process
- is committed to including community views and concerns in decision making
- works to ensure that outcomes of community participation are fed back to communities