

# What is included in Participation?

Participation is the involvement of consumers, carers and members of the community within all levels of SWSAHS. For example, this may be involvement by individuals in decisions about their own health care, involvement in hospitals and community health centres, at sector or Area management level, or involvement with the SWSAHS Board.

There are a range of ways of involving the community and gaining community input and feedback, including:

- providing fact sheets, web sites and newsletters;
- holding open days;
- inviting public comment through public meetings, forums and documents for consultation;
- conducting focus groups, interviews and workshops;
- conducting surveys and ballots;
- holding citizens juries and deliberative polling;
- forming community councils, advisory and consultative committees;
- developing networks of consumers, carers and community representatives;
- involvement in community development programs;
- appointing community representatives to health committees;
- developing care plans for individual health consumers; and
- forming partnerships and memorandums of understanding.

There are some specific activities where consumer, carer and community involvement should occur including:

- priority setting;
- finance/budget planning and the allocation of funds;
- quality and accreditation processes;
- organisational changes and restructures;
- health planning;
- policy making;
- service reviews;
- project working groups;
- recruitment processes;
- review of complaints;
- clinical reviews;
- advocacy;
- advisory processes to SWSAHS Board and Clinical Council; and
- individuals' involvement in decisions about their own treatment.