

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

The *Strategic Directions Statement for SWSAHS to 2007* (SDS) sets out the future direction for South Western Sydney Area Health Service (SWSAHS) over the next three years.

The SDS will guide health service planning and delivery, health improvement, and the development of the organisation as a whole. As such, it is the highest level, overarching planning statement in SWSAHS.

A comprehensive strategic directions planning process was undertaken to develop the SDS. The planning process was designed to be maximally inclusive, featuring extensive consultation with community representatives, SWSAHS staff, general practitioners and other organisations. A detailed outline of the strategic directions planning process and consultation strategy is provided at Appendix A.

The SDS is a genuine collaboration on strategic priorities and actions for SWSAHS over the next three years.