

## B. THE PLANNING CONTEXT

The NSW Health Department's *Strategic Directions for Health 2000 – 2005*, sets out four goals for the delivery of *Better Health, Good Health Care* in the NSW Health System. These goals are: -

- Healthier People;
- Fairer Access;
- Quality Health Care; and
- Better Value.

Six attributes underpin and give effect to these goals. They are: -

- Sharing a Clear Direction;
- Skilled and Valued Workforce;
- Engaging the Community;
- Working in Partnerships;
- Informed Decision Making; and
- Embracing Innovation.

These goals and attributes have been used to inform the development of the SWSAHS SDS.

In addition, the SDS has been developed within the context of broad sweeping reform and change across the NSW Health System as a whole. The NSW Health Council Report<sup>1</sup>, and subsequent *Government Action Plan for Health*, outlined a solid platform for reform and broad strategic priorities for improving health system accountability and performance.

More recently, the NSW Department of Health commissioned the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) to review the NSW Health System. The IPART Report<sup>2</sup> that followed, identified a series of investment priorities and opportunities to further improve the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of health care across the health system, with a particular emphasis on improving governance systems and structures.

The SDS for SWSAHS is a strategic response to this climate of reform and change.

The Health Council Report and the IPART Report both recognised that the health system is under a variety of pressures amidst an array of emerging forces and evolving trends. These forces and trends inevitably shape and influence the health system's priorities, impact and profile. As such, they pose a collective challenge to the health system overall. They include: -

- the growth in demand for health services and increasing consumer expectations;
- the growing and ageing population;
- the changing nature of health service delivery;
- severe workforce shortages;
- a shift in the burden of disease from acute to chronic conditions;
- emerging medical and communication technologies; and
- the widening gap in health status between different population groups.

The SDS outlines a clear strategic framework to address these forces and trends in the local context.

*South West Sydney Health Network – The Way Forward 2004/05 – 2007/08: A New Health Plan for the People of South West Sydney*, June 2004, is a key strategy of the SDS and provides a blueprint for the delivery of hospital and health services to the people of SWS. The SDS, together with the New Health Plan, will guide health service planning and delivery in SWSAHS over the next three years.

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the NSW Health Council: A Better Health System for NSW*, March 2000.

<sup>2</sup> *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) NSW Health: Focusing On Patient Care*, August 2003.

