

C. OUR PURPOSE AND VISION

OUR PURPOSE

“To enhance health and deliver high quality health services in partnership with our diverse and growing communities”.

OUR VISION

FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

“Vibrant communities who enjoy and value good health and work with us to improve health for everyone”.

FOR OUR STAFF AND ORGANISATION

“An energetic and progressive team delivering innovative health care and inspiring pride and confidence through a determined pursuit of excellence”.

SWSAHS is one of 17 Area Health Services in NSW responsible for providing public health services to a geographically defined population.

Section 9 of the *Area Health Services Act 1997 (NSW)* (‘the Act’) establishes that the primary purpose of an Area Health Service is to: -

- a) provide relief to sick and injured persons through the provision of care and treatment, and
- b) promote, protect and maintain the health of the community.

SWSAHS’s Purpose Statement is consistent with, and expresses the two primary purposes of, the Act. It describes the function of the organisation and sets out its parameters.

The Vision Statement for SWSAHS describes our aspirations for the communities we serve and the organisation in which we work. The Vision Statement is one vision, presented under two headers for simplicity and ease of reference, and should be read in whole and not as separate parts.

The Purpose and Vision Statements both recognise that South Western Sydney, as a region, is made up of numerous diverse communities not just connected to a particular geographic area. There are a multitude of ethnic, racial, linguistic, religious, economic communities and communities of interest spread across SWS.

The Purpose and Vision Statements are intended to be enacted in the spirit of collaboration and teamwork with our entire workforce, our patients and those who care for them, volunteers and the broader community.

Underpinning the Purpose and Vision for SWSAHS is a holistic view of health. Health is understood to encompass the physical, psychological, spiritual and social wellbeing of individuals and communities, not just the absence of disease.¹ Health is also understood to embrace emotional and cultural dimensions.² This view of health reflects a ‘whole of life view’ and as such incorporates the ‘cyclical concept of life-death-life’.³

¹ World Health Organisation (WHO) 1948; World Health Assembly (WHA) 1984.

² *Ensuring Progress in Aboriginal Health in NSW*, Department of Health, NSW, 2002.

³ Ibid.