

e-news Healthtalk

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Better Health, Good Health Care

The Transition Management Committee will manage and review the key deliverables of the transition plan...

Amalgamation under way

South Western and Central Sydney area health services are working as one on developing a transition management plan that will guide the merged organisations.

The strategy will define the processes, specific actions and timetable for the implementation of changes to both area health services from now to the end of the year.

The most notable change is the development of a new "Area-wide portfolio" for each member of the previous Area Executive Team of SWSAHS and CSAHS.

A Transition Management Committee and the Transition Steering Committee have been established to guide the amalgamation process.

The Transition Management Committee will manage and review the key deliverables of the transition plan.

It comprises administrator Dr Diana Horvath, CSAHS deputy chief executive officer Mike Wallace and SWSAHS acting deputy chief executive officer Matthew Daly.

The Transition Steering Committee assists the Transition Management Committee in evaluating proposals and developing options for consideration by the steering committee.

Your team

The Transition Steering Committee, chaired by administrator Dr Diana Horvath, comprises 21 members from SWSAHS and CSAHS. They are:

Lou-Anne Blunden acting director SWSAHS Health Services Planning, Dr Patrick Bolton director of SWSAHS Clinical Strategy, Nel Buttenshaw manager SWSAHS Executive Support Unit, Clair Cameron manager SWSAHS Public Affairs, Candy Cheng director SWSAHS and CSAHS Finance and Budget, Rosemary Chester director of SWSAHS Nursing Services, Scott Clark director of SWSAHS Mental Health Services, Matthew Daly SWSAHS acting deputy chief executive officer, Greg Driver manager SWSAHS Human

Resources, Marion Downey director CSAHS Public Affairs & Marketing, Richard Gilbert director of CSAHS Health Services Planning, Dr Peter Kennedy director of CSAHS Health Services, Kerry Russell director of CSAHS Nursing Services, Katherine Moore director CSAHS Allied Health Services, Judith Neville director of CSAHS Human Resources, Professor Peter Sainsbury director of CSAHS Population Health, Craig Turner director of SWSAHS Corporate Services, Victor Storm director of CSAHS Mental Health Services, Mike Wallace CSAHS deputy chief executive officer, Professor Jeanette Ward director SWSAHS Population Health and Jan Whalan director CSAHS Corporate Services.



Administrator's update



In the time since the NSW Health Minister Morris Iemma announced the creation of the new South Western Sydney Area Health Service, and my appointment as administrator, I have been privileged to meet and talk to many staff, including senior clinicians and managers of SWSAHS.

Talking and listening to the staff of both SWSAHS and CSAHS, as we implement this major change, will be one of the key factors driving its success.

The amalgamation of our area health services brings with it unavoidable physical distances. But at the same time it provides wonderful opportunities for sharing the complementary skills and expertise of staff for the benefit of patient services.

I am grateful for the excellent planning that has been carried out by Debbie Picone, her team and the senior clinicians of SWSAHS in developing *The Way Forward*, a sound blueprint for the future of the area. I am looking forward to working with you all as we implement the plan and maximise the benefits, which will result from the amalgamation.

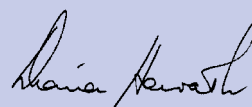
As SWSAHS commences the implementation phase of *The Way Forward*, CSAHS staff will be completing the final stages of the Resource Transition Program. The amalgamation will provide an opportunity for closer relationships between the two clinical staffs. Central Sydney clinicians, with their recent experience of rebuilding and redeveloping their service, will be able to point out some of the potential pitfalls in total service planning exercises and the post occupancy phase.

One of my major initial tasks will be to ensure that there are sufficient medical, nursing and allied health staff available to meet the patient needs of south-western Sydney. The relationships, which will be developed by facilities and staff within the new area, will greatly assist recruitment. The successful strategies that Central Sydney has employed in attracting and keeping nurses should be transferable and should assist the new area.

The amalgamation will also allow us to streamline some of the non-clinical functions that support the delivery of our health services. The Health Minister has given an assurance that the savings achieved through these reforms will be spent on health services within our area, providing for additional clinical staff and hospital beds.

In the coming weeks, I will ensure that our administrative and corporate services staff are made fully aware of any proposed changes and have an opportunity to comment and advise the best way forward. No changes to current work practices will be introduced until there has been frank and open discussion with the relevant staff and their unions. It is very important that we do not lose our talented staff, many of who have contributed years of service to our health system.

While change can be difficult at times, it also presents an opportunity to rethink the way that we deliver services and why we have chosen to work in one of the caring professions. I want you all to take this opportunity to have input into our future direction.



Dr Diana Horvath AO
Administrator