

# Clinical Integration at the Local Level Forum

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Summary Report | May 2019



It has long been identified that multidisciplinary team work results in improved quality of care and health outcomes for patients. Providing opportunities for health professions to integrate in a professional, clinical and systemic manner enhances person-centred care and therefore improve a person's overall well-being.

Adelaide PHN currently provides a range of supports for primary health care providers to support their ability to work as part of a primary health care system to provide the right care in the right time and the right place. This work is underpinned by Adelaide PHN's Integrated Care Framework.

In May 2019, Adelaide PHN facilitated the Clinical Integration at the Local Level Forum. The purpose of the forum was to bring health professional organisations together to consider how to enhance delivery of person centred, integrated care to meet the health needs of the community.

Health professional organisations were invited to the Forum of which 10 organisations attended (refer to Appendix A: Health Professional Organisations). In total 18 professionals attended the Forum participating in a workshop to discuss clinical integration. Feedback regarding the Forum was very positive (refer to Appendix B: Participants' Feedback)

### **Workshop Outcomes**

Participants were asked to brainstorm their understanding of clinical integration and how to work together using a case study. The following themes were identified:

- Clinical governance
- Effective communication
- Collaboration
- Better access
- Knowing and understanding the expertise of other professionals

Proposed ideas to enable clinical integration included:

- Funding model to support integration
- Mechanism for integration to be easier

### **What can we do?**

Following discussion participants highlighted the following strategies that will support clinical integration:

- A single e-communication platform be developed to encourage communication between health professional
- Explore Health Fusion Team Challenges: provide training for undergraduate students to know what other do
- Explore the opportunities of collaborating with GPs at the regional level

## **Where to from here**

Participants expressed that communication and engagement continue with Adelaide PHN. The following actions were highlighted

- Participants receive a summary of Forum
- An environmental scan be conducted on collaborations that are working between professions and who is doing what
- Identify areas where integration has worked well
- Start small at a local level

## **Appendix A: Health Professional Organisations**

### **List of Attendees**

Australian Association of Practice Management  
Australian Association of Social Workers  
Australian College of Mental Health Nurses SA Branch  
Australian College of Nurse Practitioners  
Dietitians Association of Australia  
Australian Physiotherapy Association  
Australian Podiatry Association  
Optometry Australia  
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia  
Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia

### **Apologies**

Australian Dental Association SA Branch Inc  
Royal Australian College of General Practice SA Branch

### **Invited Health Professional Organisations/Peak Bodies**

Audiology Australia  
Australian Association of Practice Management SA Branch  
Australian Association of Social Workers  
Australian Clinical Psychology Association  
Australian College of Mental Health Nurses SA Branch  
Australian College of Mid-wives SA Branch  
Australian College of Nurse Practitioners SA Chapter  
Australian Dental Association SA Branch Inc  
Australian Diabetes Educators Association  
Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association  
Australian Physiotherapy Association SA Branch  
Australian Podiatry Association SA  
Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA)  
Australian Psychological Society  
Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation  
Chiropractors Association of Australia  
Dental Hygienists Association of Australia  
Dietitians Association of Australia  
Exercise and Sports Science Australia  
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association  
Occupational Therapists Association - SA Division  
Optometry Australia SA Branch  
Osteopathy Australia  
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia SA Branch  
Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia  
Royal Australian College of General Practice SA Branch  
South Australian School Nurses Association  
Speech Pathology Australia SA Branch  
The Australian College of Phlebology

## Appendix B: Participants' Feedback

16 participants provided feedback which overall was very positive. Results demonstrate that:

- 12 respondents (75%) agreed or strongly agreed the Forum achieved the goal of supporting health professionals consider clinical integration in their work
- All respondents (100%) agreed or strongly agreed the presenter was well organised and knowledgeable on the topic
- 12 respondents (75%) agreed or strongly agreed the case study was relevant to their profession in discussing clinical integration.

