



# Primary Health Tasmania Allied Health Engagement Strategy

## Information Bulletin

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### CONTEXT

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) were established by the Australian Government in 2015 to plan and commission a range of primary health services designed to meet the needs of their catchment population. PHNs have the objectives of:

- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for consumers, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and
- improving coordination of care to ensure consumers receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

Primary Health Tasmania (PHT) is seeking to increase collaboration with the allied health sector to better meet these objectives. The release of Australia's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022–2032 (the Plan) recognises that allied health professionals have a key role to play in reforming Australia's primary care system. The Plan highlights the need to shift from a treatment-based system to one focused on prevention and wellbeing. Allied health workers can facilitate this by working as part of multidisciplinary teams to improve access to services, improve integration, safety and quality of care as well as improve cost-effectiveness and reduce the burden on the tertiary health system.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

In alignment with the goals set out in the Plan, PHT has engaged consultants from Healthcare Management Advisors to:

*'...develop a strategic approach to its engagement with Tasmanian allied health providers.'*

This project aims to develop an Allied Health Engagement Strategy (the Strategy) through:

- a literature review of strategies and frameworks, and
- consultation with Tasmanian allied health peak bodies and non-discipline specific peak bodies.

The purpose of the engagement strategy will be to define methods of engagement between PHT and the allied health sector from the level of the individual provider or practice, through to peak bodies. In doing so, it will allow PHT to understand the priorities of the sector, how these priorities align with Primary Health Tasmania's strategic goals, priority health areas and priority populations.

### PROJECT METHOD

To develop the Strategy, HMA is applying the following five stage method:

- (1) **Stage 1: Project initiation** – to finalise the project scope and clarify roles and responsibilities. This will include the development of a detailed project management plan (December 2022).
- (2) **Stage 2: Literature review** – a scan of the literature will be undertaken to identify relevant articles that can inform the design of the Strategy. This will include a review of existing allied health strategies locally and internationally. (December 2022).
- (3) **Stage 3: Stakeholder consultation** – HMA will use the information from Stage 2 to inform consultation with Tasmanian allied health peak bodies to better understand the priorities of the allied health sector and how they align with Primary Health Tasmania's strategic goals. The consultations will also allow for input into the design of the Strategy (January–February 2023).
- (4) **Stage 4: Develop draft Allied Health Engagement Strategy** – the draft Strategy will highlight key principles to guide PHT's approach to allied health sector engagement, specify appropriate levels of engagement depending

on the type of issue being addressed and identify the most appropriate methods for collaboration. The draft strategy will be distributed to peak bodies to provide an opportunity for feedback (March 2023).

- (5) **Stage 5: Develop final Allied Health Engagement Strategy** – HMA will incorporate feedback from allied health peak bodies and Primary Health Tasmania to inform the drafting of the final strategy (early April 2023).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you would like further information about the Allied Health Engagement Strategy project, please contact HMA or Primary Health Tasmania using the details provided below.

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