

## Changes to Health System Governance

# Role of Department for Health and Wellbeing

The Department for Health and Wellbeing is the health system leader, responsible for setting the strategic direction for the delivery of health services in South Australia, and supporting the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the Chief Executive in exercising their powers and functions.

## Department for Health and Wellbeing

In 2019, the Department for Health and Wellbeing was realigned to ensure it is best placed to perform its roles and functions. This includes being the system leader for the South Australian public health system, supporting the Local Health Networks (LHNs) and SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) to achieve success.

Led by the Chief Executive, the Department is responsible for setting the strategic directions for the health system and providing system leadership and planning functions, as well as:

- > setting policies that must be complied with by the Department, LHNs and SAAS.
- > supporting and advising the Minister/Government on strategic policies and directions
- > coordination of Parliamentary and Cabinet briefing processes
- > statutory reporting requirements
- > intergovernmental relations
- > participation in, and supporting the Minister to participate in, national reforms via national councils and committees
- > regulatory and licencing functions.

As the system leader for the delivery of health services, the Department:

- > provides strategic leadership, planning and direction for health care services in South Australia
- > makes recommendations for the allocation of funding from the health portfolio budget to health service providers
- > oversees, monitors, and promotes improvements in the safety and quality of health services
- > enters into Service Agreements with health service providers outlining budget, activity and performance measures
- > arranges for the provision of health services by contracted health entities
- > monitors performance and take remedial action when performance does not meet expected standards
- > sets system-wide policies and procedures
- > exercises strong financial management and accountability that prioritises investment in high value, evidence-informed service responses and system sustainability at a local level
- > fosters a leadership culture that supports accountability, transparency, collaboration, and encourages innovation.

The Department, through the Chief Executive, is responsible to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.



## Divisions of the Department

### Office of the Chief Executive

This office provides advice to and supports the Chief Executive, facilitates action across the Department, provides quality assurance for briefings and key documents, and has a key interface role with the Office of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

### Office of the Chief Psychiatrist / Mental Health

This Chief Psychiatrist is a statutory role with powers and functions relating to the administration of the Mental Health Act 2009. The Office also undertakes work to support mental health care standards and policy in South Australia.

### Health Regulation and Protection

This division centralises regulatory functions, and provides public health functions, including the State's health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It sets and monitors the regulatory framework and standards, and therefore informs and helps prioritise focus across the system in partnership with System Leadership and Design, and Commissioning and Performance divisions.

### System Leadership and Design

This division is focused on strategic system leadership, and will provide a whole-of-system perspective to inform, co-ordinate and prioritise strategic initiatives and forward direction for strategy, planning, intergovernment relations and professional leadership areas. The work of the division will lead and support the work of the Commissioning and Performance division.

### Commissioning and Performance

This division provides a critical interface with LHNs and other commissioned providers. It will drive an integrated approach to commissioning, purchasing, performance management and relationship management of all providers, as well as maintaining a focus on safety and quality. The division will support implementation of key strategic pieces led by the System Leadership and Design division.

### Corporate and System Support Services

This division provides support services for the Department across a range of 'enabling' corporate functions including finance, infrastructure, risk management, human resources and workforce, corporate governance functions and legal and policy frameworks. The division also has an external focus providing 'state-wide' support services to Local Health Networks for a range of corporate areas.

### Digital Health SA

Digital Health is an operating entity within the Department. Digital Health SA provides leadership for the portfolio, with a blend of strategy, services and business-as-usual activity. Digital Health SA is informed by a Steering Committee which includes representatives from across SA Health.

For more information:

[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/GovernanceReform](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/GovernanceReform)

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