

## **Introduction**

Health Advisory Councils have been established by the Minister for Health under the Health Care Act 2008 to act as advocates for local communities in country South Australia and, in the case of incorporated HACs, to hold assets on their behalf.

The purpose of this protocol is to assist local country communities to have an impact on decision-making by the Country Health SA Hospital Inc., SA Health and by the Minister for Health.

All parties to this protocol acknowledge that effective communication can play a vital role in the planning and delivery of health services to Country South Australia.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Local Health Advisory Councils**

Local Health Advisory Councils will:

- Identify local stakeholders with whom they will consult about local and countrywide health issues
- Develop a 12 month plan which will set out what they wish to achieve over each financial year and which will include a program of consultation with local stakeholders
- Communicate promptly the outcomes of any community consultations to the Local Health Service Manager/Director who will forward this information to the Chief Executive Officer of the Country Health SA Hospital Inc
- Contribute to the development of positions of whole-of-country issues, through the participation of their Presiding Member or delegate, in whole-of-country conferences/meetings called from time to time by the Presiding Member of the Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council Inc
- Bring any matter of significance to the attention of either the Chief Executive Officer of the Country Health SA Hospital Inc or the Presiding Member of the Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council Inc as appropriate

### **Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council Inc**

The Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council Inc will:

- Convene at least once each year a Presiding Member Conference at which the Country Health SA Hospital will report on its plans and its achievements in improving the health of country communities and which will provide local Health Advisory Councils with the opportunity to develop positions in relation to issues which impact broadly upon Country South Australia

- Receive correspondence from local Health Advisory Councils on matters deemed by the local Health Advisory Council as significant, determine a view on these matters and relay this view to the Chief Executive Officer of the Country Health SA Hospital Inc or to the Minister for Health as appropriate
- Conduct its meetings in locations throughout country South Australia and provide at these meetings for an interaction with local Health Advisory Councils
- Provide a formal report each quarter to each unincorporated Health Advisory Council for which it holds assets on the status of those assets

### **Country Health SA Hospital Inc**

The Country Health SA Hospital Inc. will:

- Ensure that a representative of the Country Health SA Hospital Inc. is available to attend all meeting of local Health Advisory Councils, of the Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council Inc and all whole of country conferences meetings
- Provide a formal report each quarter on its performance to each meeting of local Health Advisory Councils and of the Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council Inc.
- Provide a formal report each quarter to each incorporated Health Advisory Council on the status of those assets
- Provide a formal report each quarter to the Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council Inc on the status of assets held by Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council Inc on behalf of unincorporated Health Advisory Councils