

GP CLINICAL COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS 2019

Key topics, discussions and contributions of the GP Clinical Council over 2019 were as follows:

- Access to After-Hours Medical Care in RACFs - this topic was discussed over the year with important feedback shaping the formation and implementation of this commissioned service. This is ongoing activity.
- Quality Improvement PIP - was a focus prior and post implementation (August 2019) with feedback supporting how the general practice support team could facilitate information and advice to general practice on the changes.
- Data Linkage – was introduced as a new and emerging activity in the NBM region in conjunction with NSW Health. Advice from GPCC supported WHL with guidance on how best to implement this new initiative with primary care in our region.
- Respiratory Specialist Outreach to Primary Care – was introduced as a new and emerging activity to from the Local Health District (LHD) in the NBM region. A summary of the discussion and advice from GPCC was forwarded to LHD to assist with the rollout of this new service.
- Workforce - Updates to the District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) were tabled with a number of recommendations received including; the development of a promotional video of the region to assist with recruitment of Health Professionals
- Mental health – an overview of the current services was provided to support a refresh of recent changes and a navigation of the PHN mental health website page. Feedback supported a refinement of how these services are presented/navigated on the PHN webpage.
- Mental Health - Psychological Therapy Services (PTS) - feedback received supported how WHL could manage the limited capacity and demand of the PTS service
- NBMLHD Community Health Redevelopment plan – was presented by the LHD Planning Directorate which intends to shape the provision of community based services over the next 10 years. Advice received by GPCC supported how best to engage with health professionals in the development of the plan.
- Health Pathways – updates have been continually provided with feedback received on how to increase engagement with GPs

Specific Issues recommended to the Board included

- Workforce – the concern relating to long term GP shortages in our region - and that the ongoing liaison with GP Synergy at all levels of the organisation to promote the engagement, attraction and uptake of Registrars as being essential in helping to address this issue.
- Engagement with NBMLHD - in developing and shaping integrated care activities by the GPCC was seen as essential to assisting with improvements to services in the region.