

Brisbane North PHN health priorities

In late 2017, Brisbane North PHN developed a new set of health priorities to guide our work in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region. The priorities were determined following a review process, which included extensive community and stakeholder consultation.

These priorities will be used to develop a range of regional plans, in partnership with Metro North Hospital and Health Service and inform the commissioning of services from 2018/19.

Brisbane North PHN's health priorities are:

Coordinated care for older people

Stakeholders told us that older people with multiple health issues need coordinated care to stay healthy at home. This is supported by the data, which shows that our population is ageing and older people experience higher rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations.



Culturally responsive services to enhance the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Data shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have significantly poorer health outcomes—including shorter life expectancy—than the rest of the population in our region. Stakeholders told us there is a need for culturally responsive services that reduce the barriers and improve self-agency for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Improved access to health and community care in Moreton Bay North

Data shows that people in the Moreton Bay North sub region have significantly poorer health outcomes than people in other parts of the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region. Through our consultation, stakeholders told us there is a need to improve the appropriateness of services and reduce barriers to access for people in Moreton Bay North so they can receive the right care, in the right place and at the right time.



Better support for those with chronic and complex conditions across the care continuum

Stakeholders told us there is a need to better support people with complex and chronic conditions so that they can achieve better health outcomes. The data shows that people with chronic and complex conditions utilise more health services, indicating a need for improved management and coordination of care. If these people receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time, not only will this improve their health outcomes but also reduce the burden of unnecessary hospitalisation.



Mental health

Mental health is an ongoing priority for the PHN. Data shows that mental health issues are increasing across the region, particularly among younger residents and in the Moreton Bay North sub region. The rates of deaths from suicide are also concerning. Through the development of a mental health, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drugs regional plan, stakeholders told us there is a need for increased access to integrated and holistic services that better target a range of mental health needs.



Alcohol and other drug treatment

Data indicates that harmful use of alcohol and other drugs continues to be a priority issue for the region. There has been an increase in problematic alcohol and other drug use alongside mental health issues. There is also a need for more appropriate outpatient support services. Stakeholders told us about the need for more integrated policy and program approaches. There is also a need to address stigma and discrimination that prevents access to treatment. Services for people undergoing withdrawal management, rehabilitation and counselling are also lacking.



Background

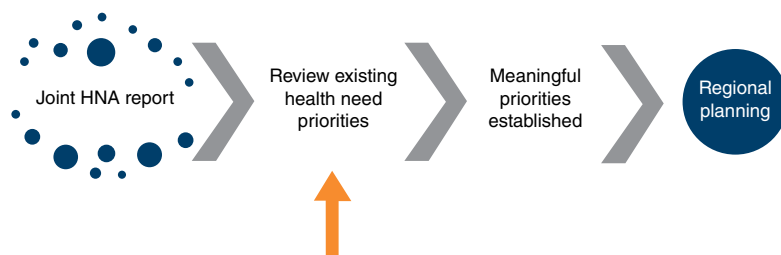
The new priorities were identified through an extensive review, including revision of the previously identified health priorities:

- health promotion
- potentially preventable hospitalisations
- Moreton Bay North
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- mental health
- alcohol and other drug treatment.

The mental health and alcohol and other drug treatment priorities were out of scope of this review given they were the focus of comprehensive regional planning and consultation throughout 2017.

The first stage of the review was a joint Health Needs Assessment (HNA) to better understand the health of the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region.

[The Health Needs Assessment - Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Hospital and Health Service | 2016-17](#) drew on a range of health data sources from the primary care and hospital care sectors. It highlights trends in health service use and allows both the PHN and Metro North Hospital and Health Service to identify health system issues.



The PHN then engaged with stakeholders, including consumers and carers, to gain their input and feedback on the existing priorities. There was also the opportunity for stakeholders to suggest other priorities that may have emerged in the last two years.

These engagement activities involved a wide range of stakeholders including clinicians working in primary care and in hospitals, community service providers and representatives from organisations that work with culturally and linguistically diverse population groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people with disability. Across the course of the review the PHN hosted stakeholder workshops and meetings with over 400 people and received feedback through online engagement.

What we heard

Throughout the review process, the PHN collated over 300 pieces of specific feedback regarding the health needs of our region.

Stakeholders provided feedback which helped us better understand issues around potentially preventable hospitalisations, Moreton Bay North, health promotion and the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Along with feedback regarding what the health priorities should be, we also received input on specific services and activities that may contribute to addressing these priorities.

Common themes across the feedback included: health promotion, healthcare coordination and collaboration, health workforce and community education and support.

All feedback and suggestions will be considered as part of the regional planning process for each health priority.

Community education and support

Social and emotional support

Provision of culturally responsive services

Health promotion

Health workforce education and support

Healthcare coordination and collaboration

Engaging population groups to improve their health

After hours healthcare

Barrers to accessing services

Preventative health

Health literacy

Health workforce

Appropriate care

Provision of accessible care

Investment in services/additional services

Next steps

We are working with our partners to develop plans at a regional level in response to these health priorities.

Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Hospital and Health Service have developed a [Five year health care plan for older people who live in Brisbane North | 2017-2022](#) which will help to address the health priority of coordinated care for older people.

We are also working in partnership on a plan to reform local mental health services at a regional level in response to ongoing mental health and alcohol and other drugs treatment health priorities.

These processes have allowed us to engage with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure planning and commissioning approaches reflect the specific needs and issues within each health priority.

Building on this approach and successes to-date, the PHN will adopt a similar regional planning process to respond to the other health priorities.

