

Hunter New England Health Cancer Services Plan

Background

HNE Health has developed a suite of plans that outline the direction of health service development and delivery across the Hunter New England Health area for the next five years.

The plans include:

- A New Direction for Hunter New England – Health Service Strategic Plan towards 2010
- Area Healthcare Services Plan 2006 - 2010
- Clinical Service Plans, including:
 - Aged Care and Rehabilitation Services Plan
 - **Cancer Services Plan**
 - Mental Health Services Plan
 - Chronic Disease Services Plan

Additional clinical services plans will follow, as will plans for corporate services that support the delivery of clinical services.

What is the purpose of the Cancer Services Plan?

The purpose of this plan is to outline the strategic directions for cancer services development over the next five years and to identify strategies that will improve cancer prevention, screening and treatment services across the area.

The plan will guide the development of a cohesive, integrated area-wide approach to cancer control that is founded on the best available evidence, articulates national and state directions and utilises international benchmarks of effectiveness.

The Cancer Services Plan sets the direction and priorities for cancer services in the HNE Health region over the next five years.

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What are the key objectives of the Cancer Services Plan?

- To improve cancer outcomes;
- To improve the patient's experience of care
- To improve the efficiency of cancer service delivery for adults

Who is the focus of the Cancer Services Plan?

The scope of the plan covers adults accessing screening, diagnostic, treatment, palliative care and supportive care services within the Hunter New England Health and whole of population prevention activities.

Paediatric oncology services will be addressed in the Children, Young People and Families' Services Plan.

The over-arching goal of the plan is to ensure that people in the Hunter New England Health area have access to a range of high quality services and best practice care irrespective of where they enter the health system.

What changes will result from the Cancer Services Plan?

The impact of the changes proposed in this plan will be evident over the short, medium and long term. Immediate efforts will be put into strategies that can promote an area-wide, integrated approach to cancer service delivery.

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Improvements in the short-term will include streamlining services to ensure that there are linkages and improved movement across services, access to best practice care in a timely fashion, changes in models of care and clinical practices and the provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate secondary prevention information to all adult cancer patients currently undergoing treatment.

In the medium term strategies will focus on identifying at risk patient populations and target specific interventions.

While in the longer term strategies will identify where research evidence can be translated into a change in clinical practice.

How will the Cancer Services Plan work with existing initiatives?

The strategic direction of the plan is consistent with those articulated in the Area Healthcare Services Plan 2006-2010.

As well, the plan is built on a number of state, national and international initiatives in cancer control including:

- Optimising Cancer Care in Australia, National Cancer Control Initiative 2002
- National Service Improvement Framework for Cancer (2004)
- NSW Cancer Plan, 2004-2006
- NSW Health, Optimising Cancer Management Initiative, 1999
- A Clinical Service Framework for Optimising Cancer Care in NSW (2003)
- The NHS Cancer Plan, UK (2000)
- NSW Chronic Disease Prevention¹ Strategy, 2003-2007
- National Cancer Prevention Policy, 2004-2006¹
- NSW Aboriginal Chronic Conditions, Area Health Service Standards (2005)¹

Each of these policy initiatives focuses attention on the patient's experience of care and the need for systems and processes to be established that will provide opportunities to improve the patient's experience.

Will this document be regularly reviewed?

The Cancer Services Plan is a living document. It will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Will all aspects of this plan be achieved?

Some initiatives in the plan require new funding. While every effort will be made to secure the funding required, both by the services' management and by the Area Executive Team, we cannot guarantee we will be able to get all the funding needed. Without additional funding, some things identified in the plan may not be able to be achieved.

How can I view the Cancer Services Plan?

The complete Cancer Services Plan can be downloaded from the HNE Health internet site at:

http://www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/36533/HNE_Health_Cancer_Services_Plan.pdf

For further information, contact Development Manager, HNE Health Area Cancer Services on 02 4921 4159.