

Changes to Health System Governance

SA Health system roles and responsibilities

The State Government established 10 Local Health Networks (LHNs), each with its own Governing Board, commencing on 1 July 2019. From this date, six new regional LHNs replaced Country Health SA LHN. In addition, the Department for Health and Wellbeing took on a revised role, complementing and supporting the LHNs through high-level system direction and performance management, as well as its government departmental roles to support the Minister and Chief Executive in exercising their responsibilities. Two other key Government initiatives have been completed, being the establishment of Wellbeing SA and the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health on 6 January 2021.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Under revised governance arrangements, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing continues to be responsible for ensuring the public health system meets the requirements of the South Australian community, including through:

- > planning, implementing and supporting the provision of a system of health services that are comprehensive, coordinated and readily accessible to the public
- > ensuring that hospitals and other health services established, maintained or operated by the Government are operated in an efficient and economical manner
- > ensuring the proper allocation of health resources
- > ensuring that emergency ambulance services are provided in an efficient and effective manner through the SA Ambulance Service.

The Minister has responsibility for ensuring that the LHN Governing Boards are operating effectively and in line with their legislative requirements.

The Minister is responsible for appointing Governing Board Chairpersons and members and meets with Governing Board Chairs regularly.

Department for Health and Wellbeing

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

- > supporting and advising the Minister and Government on strategic policies and directions
- > coordination of Parliamentary and Cabinet briefing processes
- > system performance monitoring against Service Agreements
- > 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.

There are four divisions within the Department:

- > Health Regulation and Protection
- > System Leadership and Design
- > Commissioning and Performance
- > Corporate and System Support Services.



In addition, the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health, Digital Health SA, the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and Wellbeing SA report to the Chief Executive of the Department.

Local Health Networks (LHNs)

From 1 July 2019, there are ten LHNs, each with its own Governing Board, responsible for governance over local health service delivery. This allows decisions to be made closer to clinicians, consumers and communities, and support strengthened engagement.

The ten LHNs include the three metropolitan LHNs for Central, Northern and Southern Adelaide, the statewide Women's and Children's HN, and six regional LHNs. The regional LHNs were established within the previous country regional boundaries that have been in place for many years.

From an operational perspective, the LHN Chief Executive Officer (CEO) remains responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of the LHN. The CEO reports to, and is appointed by, the Governing Board.

Each LHN continues to deliver the same services it as prior to the reforms, in line with its Clinical Services Capability Framework profile.

Wellbeing SA

Initial establishment of Wellbeing SA

Wellbeing SA was established on 6 January 2020 to oversee community-wide health and prevention services for all South Australians. It leads innovative system change to embed prevention across the life course and disease continuum, to improve physical, mental and social wellbeing and reduce the preventable burden of disease.

This rebalancing of the health system is a significant change from a system that focuses on treating people when they become unwell, to one that is based on promoting physical, mental and social wellbeing, preventing ill health and supporting people to maintain wellbeing and lead healthier lives.

Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health

Initial establishment of the Commission has commenced, and work will be progressed to support its establishment as an Attached Office.

The Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health (the Commission) was established on 6 January 2020 to provide leadership and advice on clinical best practice with a focus on maximising health outcomes for patients, improving care and safety, championing evidence-based practice and clinical innovation, and supporting clinical collaboration.

In doing this, the Commission:

- > brings together expertise from clinicians, consumers, health partners and other relevant stakeholders to maximise health outcomes for patients
- > is recognised as a centre for excellence, a strong partner for clinical improvement and innovation and will have recognised expertise which can influence design
- > supports the provision of safer, more innovative and efficient healthcare through empowering clinicians and consumers.


SA Ambulance Service and Statewide Clinical Support Services

There have been no changes to the governance arrangements of SA Ambulance Service and Statewide Clinical Support Services. SA Ambulance Service continues to be led by a CEO,

For more information:

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/GovernanceReform



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reporting to the CE of the Department for Health and Wellbeing. Statewide Clinical Support Services continue to be led by a Chief Executive Officer, and continues to sit within the Central Adelaide LHN from a legal perspective, with services provided to all LHNs.