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**Government  
of South Australia**

**The Whyalla Hospital and Health Services  
HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL INC  
2021-22 Annual Report**

The Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council

20 Wood Terrace, WHYALLA SA 5600

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au>

Contact phone number: (08) 8647 8680

Contact email: chania.peel@sa.gov.au

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To:

Hon Chris Picton MP

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *Public Sector Act 2009*, *the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and *the Health Care Act 2008* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

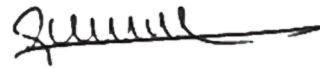
Submitted on behalf of The Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council by:

Gary Misan

Presiding Member, The Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council

Date 10/11/2022

Signature



Reason for late submission due to unforeseen circumstances.

## From the Presiding Member

Dr Gary MH Misan PhD



The Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Advisory Council conducted a busy agenda for the reporting period despite the ongoing challenges presented by COVID 19 restrictions as well as the personal serious illness of several council members. Council and other meetings have almost exclusively been conducted via MS Teams™ which for most members has been manageable but less optimal than the face-to-face meetings of the past.

COVID restrictions have limited community events in the town except for the Whyalla Show which was held with some encumbrances in August of 2022 (after a two-year absence) and at which the HAC operated a promotional stand spruiking the role and function the HAC as well as FUNLHN services. The HAC continued to provide COVID 19 vaccination and other updates to the community via emails to its community networks and through its Facebook page.

HAC members continue to participate on a number of FUNLHN Board and other committees and working groups thereby providing a consumer lens to a myriad of reports, performance measures, policies, procedures, protocols, strategic frameworks, planning documents, promotional materials, program evaluations and staff training programs. The HAC continues to collaborate with other FUNLHN HACs as part of the FUNLHN Combined Presiding Members Panel. This includes assisting in the organisation of the 2022 Combined SA Regional LHN health Advisory Councils Conference held September 22-23. Through the Panel we assist in ongoing monitoring of actions and progress of recommendations of the GAP analysis conducted in 2020, the production of Orientation Manuals for both new Presiding Members as well as for new HAC members and various promotional materials.

The HAC continued to advocate for both individual community members regarding access to health services and for improved patient equipment and amenities some of which have been funded through the Gift Fund Trust and others with assistance from the Hospital Auxiliary as well as other volunteer fund raising bodies. Affairs included an increase in the number of Holter monitors and for more timely reporting services; Medicare accreditation for the hospital bladder flow apparatus equipment; improved consumer car parking; expansion and upgrades to the chemotherapy and Renal units; for A&E and HDU upgrades; and reopening of the Cancer Resource Centre. The HAC has assisted with the purchase of an automated hot beverage dispenser for afterhours use by A&E waiting room consumers and hospital visitors; 12 x pressure sore mattresses for hospital patients; additional adjustable height waiting room chairs for the chemotherapy and cardiac outpatients waiting area, and a negative pressure wound vacuum pump for hospital use to improve wound healing times in selected patients.

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We look forward to another year advocating on behalf of our community and working in partnership the Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network Board. We thank the staff for their assistance and support during the last twelve months.

**Dr Gary MH Misan PhD**

Presiding Member, Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council

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## Overview: about the agency

### Our strategic focus

<b>Our Purpose</b>	The Health Advisory Council was established by the then Minister for Health and Ageing to undertake an advocacy role on behalf of the community and to provide advice in relation to health matters, amongst other functions.  The constitution is available at <a href="#">Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council   SA Health</a>
<b>Our Vision</b>	Not applicable
<b>Our Values</b>	Not applicable
<b>Our functions, objectives, and deliverables</b>	The Health Advisory Council undertakes an advocacy role on behalf of the community.

### Our organisational structure

Membership of the Health Advisory Council can include

- Up to eight community members
- Nominee of Local Government
- A local Member of Parliament or their nominee
- A medical practitioner member
- A worker from the Local Health Network

A list of current members is available at:

[Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council](#)

### Changes to the agency

During 2021-2022 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.



**Our Minister**

Hon Chris Picton MP is the Minister for Health and Wellbeing in South Australia.

The Minister oversees health. Wellbeing, mental health, ageing well, substance abuse and suicide prevention.

**Our Executive team**

Not applicable

**Legislation administered by the agency**

Not applicable

**Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)**

[Hawker District Memorial Health Advisory Council](#)

[Port Augusta, Roxby Downs, Woomera Health Advisory Council](#)

[Quorn Health Services Health Advisory Council](#)



## The agency's performance

### Performance at a glance

The Health Advisory Council undertakes an advocacy role on behalf of the community

### Agency response to COVID-19

Not applicable

### Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

Key objective	Agency's contribution
More jobs	Not applicable
Lower costs	Not applicable.
Better Services	Not applicable.

### Agency specific objectives and performance

The Health Advisory Council undertakes an advocacy role on behalf of the community.

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
Not applicable		

### Corporate performance summary

Not applicable

### Employment opportunity programs

Program name	Performance
Not applicable	

**Agency performance management and development systems**

<b>Performance management and development system</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Not applicable	

**Work health, safety and return to work programs**

Not applicable

**Executive employment in the agency**

Not applicable

## Financial performance

### Financial performance at a glance

The following is a brief summary of the overall financial position of the agency. The information is unaudited. Full audited financial statements for 2021-2022 are attached to this report.

Statement of Comprehensive Income	2021-22 Budget \$000s	2021-22 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	2020-21 Actual \$000s
Total Income	0	3	3	0
Total Expenses	0	5	(5)	0
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Result</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>0</b>

Statement of Financial Position	2021-22 Budget \$000s	2021-22 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	2020-21 Actual \$000s
Current assets	0	0	0	0
Non-current assets	0	360	360	0
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>0</b>
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>0</b>

### Consultants' disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

#### Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

<b>Consultancies</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/flinders-and-upper-north-local-health-network-funlhn>

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

### **Contractors' disclosure**

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

#### **Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000**

<b>Contractors</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

#### **Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each**

<b>Contractors</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/flinders-and-upper-north-local-health-network-funlhn>

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

### **Other financial information**

Nil

### **Other information**

Nil

## Risk management

### Risk and audit at a glance

Not applicable

### Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
Not applicable	

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

### Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Health Advisory Councils have specific functions and powers as defined in the *Health Care Act 2008* and the Constitution (for incorporated Health Advisory Councils or Rules (for non-incorporated Health Advisory Councils), including actions that cannot be undertaken without the approval of the Minister.

Health Advisory Councils are instrumentalities of the Crown and subject to relevant Department of Treasury and Finance Treasurers Instructions.

The Constitutions / Rules identify the actions to be undertaken in the event of a conflict of interest. All declared conflicts of interest are reported to the Minister for Health through X Local Health Network Inc.

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/flinders-and-upper-north-local-health-network-funlhn>

### Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

Nil

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/flinders-and-upper-north-local-health-network-funlhn>

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

## Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
Health Care Act 2008	Part 4 Health Advisory Councils, Division 2 Functions and Powers, 18 Functions

*Act as an advocate to promotion the interests of the community.*

### **Provide advice about relevant aspects of the provision of health services, and relevant health issues, goals, priorities, plans and strategic initiatives**

- Several Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council Incorporated (HAC) members, including the Presiding Member, are key members of various Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network (FUNLHN) Board Committees or Tier Two Committees. These include –
  - FUNLHN Community Engagement Committee of the Board
  - FUNLHN Partnering With Consumers Governance Committee
  - FUNLHN Performance Improvement Committee
  - FUNLHN Operational Clinical Governance Committee
  - FUNLHN Preventing & Controlling Healthcare Associated Infections Committee
  - FUNLHN Consumer and Community Strategic Engagement Framework Working Group

These Committees meet regularly to provide advice to the Board and to Leadership regarding health issues, priorities, performance benchmarks and indicators, consumer, and community engagement strategies as well as consumer concerns.

- The Presiding Member is a member of the FUNLHN Presiding Members Panel which considers issues of common interest to the regional HACs and the communities they represent. The group works to keep HAC members up to date regarding changes to State Legislation, community health and health care trends, FUNLHN activities and plans, and other relevant matters (e.g., COVID-19). The Panel comprises the four HAC Presiding Members who meet quarterly. A report from these meetings is tabled at the Consumer and Community Engagement Committee of the FUNLHN Board. The Panel maintains a regular dialogue with the FUNLHN CEO, the Chairs of the Board Community Engagement Committee and Partnering with Consumers Committee, the Manager Community Engagement, and other Executive and Leadership Group staff.
- Over the last 12 months HAC has been instrumental in continuing to advocate for
  - SA Pathology Services to remain in Whyalla,

- increased access and upgrades to Holter monitors and for more timely reporting services,
- Cardiac Exercise Stress testing facilities,
- Medicare accreditation for the hospital bladder flow apparatus equipment,
- Improved consumer car parking (see below),
- Expansion and upgrades to the Chemotherapy and Renal units and for A&E and HDU upgrades,
- resumption of space allocation for the Cancer Resource Centre.
- The HAC has also advocated for and funded through the Gift Fund Trust –
  - A coffee machine for use by A&E waiting room consumers and hospital visitors
  - 12 x pressure sore mattresses for hospital patients,
  - Additional adjustable height waiting room chairs for the chemotherapy and cardiac outpatients waiting area,
  - A negative pressure wound vacuum pump for Hospital use that improves wound healing times in selected patients.
- The Presiding Member has been invited to join the recently established A&E / HDU Redevelopment Working Group member which will advise on long overdue upgrades to the Whyalla Hospital.
- Whyalla HAC have prepared a brochure describing the role of the HAC together with contact details to facilitate community contact. The HAC has also had input into other information including –
  - The FUNLHN GAP analysis,
  - A number of FUNLHN strategic plans, and frameworks
  - Various policies and procedures through member affiliations with various FUNLHN Committees
  - A Presiding Member and HAC member induction manual
  - A HAC Overview document for the FUNLHN
  - The Combined HAC Conference
  - FUNLHN Promotional workforce videos



***Encourage community participation in programs***

- The HAC has a Facebook page that enables sharing of information from SA Health, SA Government and FUNLHN with community members. This has served as a useful medium to disseminate Covid19 information, vaccination clinic information, restrictions to hospital visiting hours and services as well as information regarding SA Health and SA Government health announcements.

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- Consumer and community issues raised with HAC members are presented and discussed at the HAC bi-monthly meetings or out of session should urgent matters arise between meetings. The Presiding Member is also in regular contact with the CEO or members of the Leadership Group about consumer issues when necessary.
- HAC members attend community events to disseminate information to the community regarding health and health services. Most recently HAC members manned an information booth at the Whyalla Show held in August of this year.
- Whyalla HAC members are encouraged to share information through their various professional, community and social networks that include –
  - PHN Upper Eyre Local Health Cluster
  - Whyalla Aged Care
  - Whyalla Cancer Support Network
  - Whyalla Tennis Assoc.
  - Uniting SA
  - Beyond Bank
  - Career Employment Group
  - Whyalla City Council
  - Whyalla Business and Tourism
  - Whyalla Men's Shed Inc.
  - CEIH Palliative Care Service Navigation Working Group
  - SA Rural Workforce Strategy Steering Committee
- Whyalla HAC and community members are encouraged to actively participate on the various hospital committees as described above, as well as in staff training programs, such as *Service Matters Going the Extra Mile*. This enables the community to provide feedback and commentary regarding health services from a consumer perspective.
- Community volunteers are encouraged to have a presence in the Cancer Resource Centre when the visiting Oncologist is attending at the hospital. This allows for information and support to be offered to cancer patients and their families.



### ***Consult with other bodies that are interested in the provision of health services***

- The HAC has worked with other community groups to fund hospital equipment relevant to their area of interest field such as Heartbeat (HDU and Cardiology), Pink Spirits (Breast and other cancers affecting women) and the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary (general hospital), the Whyalla Men's Shed (small projects and repairs).



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- The Whyalla HAC Deputy Presiding Member is the Chair of The Primary Health Network Upper Eyre Local Health Cluster which shares information on health promotions and services in the community. This also allows discussion with other cluster members on various health issues such as Mental Health, Cancer, Asthma, Aged Care and Population Health.
- The Presiding Member has facilitated the Whyalla Men's Shed to engage with the hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Service and related services (Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Diabetes Service) regarding provision of health promotion services for older men.
- Several HAC members are associated with the Whyalla Cancer Support Network. This is felt to be an important link given we have a Regional Cancer Centre in the hospital. The network meets once a month with various cancer support groups and offer support in the hospital Cancer Resource Centre to cancer patients and their families. The Network also shares information on health services and programs with support group members.
- The Presiding member is a member of the SA Rural Workforce Strategy Steering Committee which determines priority for and allocates funding to programs that augment Medical, Nursing, Allied Health, Dental and Aboriginal Health workforce initiatives. He had input into the Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway Evaluation Focus Group together with several other HAC members recently provided input to the FUNLHN Workforce Promotional videos for the above professional groups as well as the video for volunteers.
- The Whyalla HAC was active in having both the Hospital and the Council to review parking both within hospital grounds and outside the hospital. The result in 2022 has been changes to parking that now provides an increase in the number of public parking spaces within and outside hospital grounds for consumers as well as an increase in the provision of parking spaces for disabled persons.
- The HAC advocated for consumer access to accommodation originally built and allocated for visiting cancer and other patients but which in time was assumed by locum medical and nursing staff. After consultation there was agreement to relocate locum staff and to increase the number of available spaces for consumers as originally intended.
- The HAC has also been active in engaging with Shine SA to tailor one-day online training course titled Young People and Pregnancy Options. The aim of the course was to provide knowledge and skills in support of teenage pregnancy. The HAC worked with a local health promotion group (Health in Our Hands) to cover the cost of the course for Shine SA to conduct training in Whyalla. The training was offered to local pharmacists, school counsellors and a representative from Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service Inc. The intent is for these groups to provide information sessions and support through various agencies to pregnant teenagers and their support networks.
- The Whyalla HAC maintains its own Facebook page to promote health programs, scholarships and share information about the Hospital and Health Advisory Councils via social media.

***Provide advice to the Minister about any matter referred to it by the Minister or CE***

- Not applicable

***Participate in consultation or assessment process associated with the selection of senior staff***

- The HAC has not participated in the selection processes for any FUNLHN senior staff but has been advised regularly when such appointments occur. The Presiding member was invited to join a selection panel for the selection of the position of Volunteer Co-ordinator in late 2021.

***Act as trustee and participate in budget discussions and financial management or development processes; and to undertake fundraising activities (incorporated HAC)***

- There are several fundraising bodies who already raise money to provide equipment and services to the hospital. As a consequence, the HAC do not undertake fundraising activities. Members do however support fundraising events of the fundraising bodies including Heartbeat, the Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, Pink Spirits, and the Wig Library where possible. While the HAC to date has not been involved in fundraising activities, the HAC however does manage funds donated to the hospital through the HAC Gift Fund Trust.
- Prior to the last Federal election, the HAC wrote to the Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey to confirm the hospital infrastructure funding promised in 2019 for the upgrade to the hospital A&E and HDU. We also requested that he remind the Hon. Paul Fletcher, the then Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities, and the Arts, of his commitment not to allow infrastructure projects that had been delayed (i.e., the A&E and HDU upgrade) and now required additional funding to complete, to not be financially disadvantaged.
- Apart from the above and HAC member involvement in the FUNLHN Performance Improvement Committee, the HAC has not had further input into FUNLHN financial management or development processes.

***Provide advice about the management of resources for health services; and provide assistance with fundraising activities (unincorporated HAC)***

- Not applicable

***Reporting required under the Carers' Recognition Act 2005***

- Not applicable

## Public complaints

### Number of public complaints reported

A Regional Health Network response will be provided in the 2021-22 Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network Annual Report, which can be accessed on the [SA Health website](#).

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2021-22
Not applicable			
		<b>Total</b>	

Additional Metrics	Total
Not applicable	

Data for previous years is available at Reference the applicable Regional LHN Data.SA page: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/flinders-and-upper-north-local-health-network-funlhn>

### Service Improvements

Not applicable

### Compliance Statement

The Whyalla Hospital and Health Services HAC is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector	Y/N
The Whyalla Hospital and Health Services HAC has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency’s related complaints policies and procedures to employees.	Y/N

## **Appendix: Audited financial statements 2021-22**