

WHY IS THIS A HEALTH PRIORITY?

Ensuring a sustainable, skilled and flexible workforce to meet Australia's healthcare needs now and into the future is an important challenge facing our community.

Primary health care professionals play a valuable role in the ACT community to improve the health and wellbeing of Canberrans.

Therefore, understanding local workforce issues and implementing strategies to ensure a sufficient, capable and sustainable workforce is of vital importance.

WHAT ISSUES HAVE WE IDENTIFIED?

Through engagement with primary care service providers, two key workforce concerns were highlighted.



Supporting a sustainable primary care workforce with the changing nature of primary care.



The lack of multidisciplinary primary care team models to improve integration and communication.

TARGET OUTCOMES

To invest in a sustainable health workforce in the ACT there needs to be



An increase in opportunities for primary care professionals to upskill and build capacity and increased opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning and collaboration.



A focus on building capacity for primary care to **respond to growing demand and increasing rates of chronic disease.**

References

- ACT PHN. (2018). ACT Needs Assessment. Canberra: Capital Health Network.
- Australian Government Department of Health. (2017, January 21). Health Workforce Data. Retrieved from Department of Health: http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health_workforce_data
- Australian Government Department of Health. (2018, December 21). General Practice Statistics. Retrieved from The Department of Health: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/General+Practice+Statistics-1>

WHAT HAS THE DATA TOLD US?

Similar to other Australian jurisdictions, the



ACT faces difficulty attracting qualified health staff (ACT Health, 2014).



Department of Health GP statistics for 2017-2018 indicate that the **ACT had 76.9 GP FSE per 100,000 population compared with the National figure of 102.2 per 100,000 population** (Australian Government Department of Health, 2018).



42% of GPs are over the age of 55 and 31% of practice nurses are over the age of 55 (Australian Government Department of Health, 2017).



The growing burden of chronic disease in the ACT has resulted in **an increased role for general practitioners, in conjunction with other health care practitioners, to deliver multidisciplinary team based care** (ACT PHN, 2018).

WHAT HAVE STAKEHOLDERS TOLD US?



There is an increased need for team based care and care coordination



Increased pressure on practices for training places for medicine, nursing and allied health disciplines



There is uneven distribution of the GP workforce



There is a need for better coordination and communication between general practice and allied health providers