

## 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](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**