

TDHS Statement re Health Services Plan (September 2024)

Recently the Victorian Government released its Health Services Plan (the plan). As part of that plan the government has ruled out any forced amalgamations or mergers.

The Plan's goal is a more connected system that enables higher quality and safer care, regardless of where you live in Victoria. It also aims to address workforce challenges so that specialist services and clinicians are available to as many people as possible across the state.

There will be three (3) key pillars of reform.

- Geographic groupings of public health services responsible for planning and managing care so that it meets the population health needs of their communities which will be known as Local Health Service Networks (LHSN).
- A Victorian Role Delineation Framework, which will support collaboration across the system through setting out the roles and responsibilities of every health service site, aligned to their size and capability. The intent is to reduce duplication and ensure each consumer receives the care they need as close to home as possible.
- Formalised relationships between each Network and a women's, a children's and a major tertiary hospital, ensuring every Victorian has seamless access to specialist care and expertise when they need it.

The following information about these networks is known.

- Each health service maintains its own Board and CEO/Leadership team.
- Individual Health Services retain their own identity.
- Current services and staff are maintained.
- The goal of the LHSN is that we collaborate and share resources more efficiently to improve health outcomes for regional consumers, including TDHS consumers.
- LHSN will probably function in a similar manner to the regionally based partnerships formerly known as Health Services Partnerships.

The path forward.

- Over the coming months the Government and Department of Health (DH) is seeking input from Health Services about how LHSN should be configured.
- TDHS intends to submit a response to this request for feedback.
- Our submission will consider the views of our staff and consumers collected during the next few months as well as current acute patient flows. The TDHS Board encourages community members, staff and consumers to engage in this process. We intend advertising these opportunities.

- The TDHS Board and Executive are and will continue advocating for our health service and community. This may include providing advice about the decision-making framework used by the LHSN to the DH.
- In February 2025 the Government will confirm the makeup of each LHSN.
- LHSN will be operational on 1 July, 2025.

The Plan is a roadmap for a more connected system that delivers the right care, at the right time, in the right place. This complements our work on the triple aim of delivering better patient experience and better population outcomes at a lower price.

We look forward to your involvement and continued support as we position TDHS for a long and successful future serving the health needs of our consumers by providing the assistance you need to build a healthy and well community.