

COUNTRY HEALTH CARE PLAN TASKFORCE

CHAIR'S BULLETIN

The Country Health Care Plan Taskforce met on Friday, 8 August 2008.

The Minister for Health announced on 31 July 2008 that the Government had listened to the feedback received from the consultation period on the Country Health Care Plan and that the Government would not impose a plan on country South Australians that they don't want.

The Minister for Health has sought a commitment from the Taskforce for their continued involvement but with a revised role.

The role of the Taskforce is now to:

- assist Country Health SA to assess submissions received through the consultation period that ended on 31 July 2008;
- work with the Government to prepare a response to the concerns raised;
- work with Country Health SA as a resource to assist local communities on their future health care planning. The focus is to be on ensuring sustainable workforce and services while having regard to the available budget and the health needs of the community.

The Taskforce was advised that communities and stakeholders can be reassured that country health services will be actively sustained. Initial budgets have been issued to all health units to maintain current levels of services.

Previous information indicated that the Taskforce was to visit local hospital communities. This has now been revised, with the Taskforce still able to act as a resource to local communities post release of a revised Plan at the invitation of local communities.

The Taskforce agreed to establish sub-groups to assist in the development of a revised plan. These focus on workforce, delineation of services and planning principles. Sub-groups are to meet out of session with outcomes to be presented to the full Taskforce for discussion at its next meeting.

Draft planning principles were tabled and will be developed further by the sub-groups.

An analysis of feedback/submissions in relation to South Australia's Country Health Care Plan received to date was tabled and discussed.

Comments have been received with respect to membership of the Taskforce. Membership was determined by the Minister for Health. However the Taskforce agreed to work with local representatives at community consultations.

Taskforce members will ensure appropriate information exchange through their relevant organisations and associations, including Health Advisory Councils.

Public comment on the work of the Taskforce will be made by the Chair, Mr Peter Blacker.

Any enquiries can be directed to the Taskforce email address:

chcp.taskforce@health.sa.gov.au

Correspondence can also be forwarded to the Chair, as per address below.

Peter Blacker

Chair

Country Health Care Plan Taskforce

C/- Country Health SA

PO Box 287, Rundle Mall

ADELAIDE SA 5000

Country Health Care Plan Taskforce Members

Peter Blacker (Chair)

Peter Rischbieth

Alison Edwards

Peter Sharley

Lyn Poole

Elizabeth Dabars

Dolly Costello

Mary Buckskin

James Maitland

Peter Joyner

David Panter

George Beltchev

Rural Doctors Association SA

Rural Division Group of General Practice SA

Australian Medical Association

Rural Doctors Workforce Agency

Australian Nursing Federation

Public Service Association

Aboriginal Health Council of SA

Local Government Association

Country Health SA Board Health Advisory Council

Department of Health

Country Health SA