

**Issue No 3**

# Community Health Review Bulletin

***This is the third issue in a series of bi-monthly bulletins providing information on the Review of Community Health Services in NSW***

**In this Issue**

Featured in this third edition of the Community Health Review Bulletin is:

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**General update**

The Community Health Review is well underway.

The consultants for the Review, the Centre for Health Service Development (CHSD), have begun consultation with stakeholders and started the literature review of best practice models of care for community health. A website has been established to receive submissions, collect written ideas and literature on what works well and information on service models.

The Baseline Audit of Community Health Services, the first of the Review's Terms of Reference, is complete. It is being used to inform the Review and its consultations.

A new Project Leader within NSW Health has been appointed to the Review.

**Consultations update**

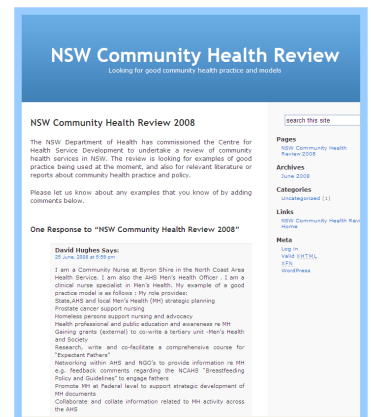
CHSD has begun the Community Health Review consultations that will include all Chief Executives, key members of all Area Health Services, a range of stakeholders in the Department of Health and key informants in the field.



Initial discussions started in late May and CHSD is filling its calendar of consultations. Most consultations will take place during July and August 2008.

**CHR Website & Blog**

CHSD has established a website to support and broaden the consultation process. The idea is to facilitate the sharing of ideas and comments, and to collect submissions and information on service models and innovations. A brief PowerPoint Presentation, to explain how the review is being undertaken, is available on the website.



The site features the CHR Blog – where you can **Have Your Say!** You can post information about services and ideas for reform, or respond to ideas posted by others. We hope that discussions on the blog will generate useful information and idea-sharing from the field during the Review.

Or you can send a submission, or information on service models or programs, to [info@nswchr.net](mailto:info@nswchr.net)

Or send a hard copy by mail to:  
**NSW Community Health Review, Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong, NSW, 2522.**

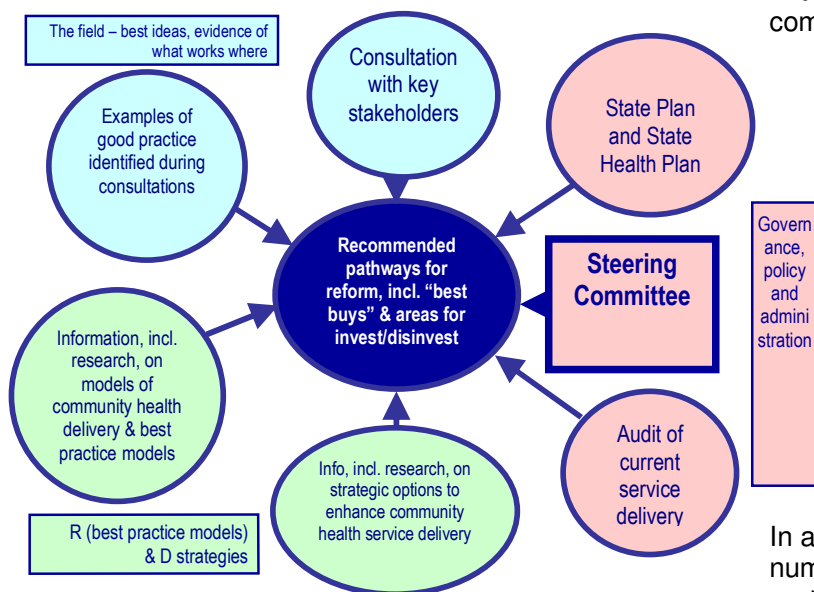
CHSD is looking for information about good practice or innovative service models in the community health sector. We are seeking a broad range of information during the Review including research literature and other evidence of good practice. We are not only looking for peer-reviewed research, but also information from the field and elsewhere, such as working papers, unpublished reports, and policy and implementation papers (*as illustrated in the following diagram*).

The website also hosts past and current issues of the Community Health Review Bulletin.

### Have your say! – Ideas from Aged Care

In this and coming Bulletins we will feature different aspects of community health and proposals for improvement and reform through a “**Have Your Say!**” segment.

In this issue, the ideas come from the community aged care sector.



In an early submission to the Review, a number of ideas have been suggested, particularly for improving community aged care and chronic disease services. These include:

To view the blog and provide information or a submission to the Review, please visit: <http://www.nswchr.net>

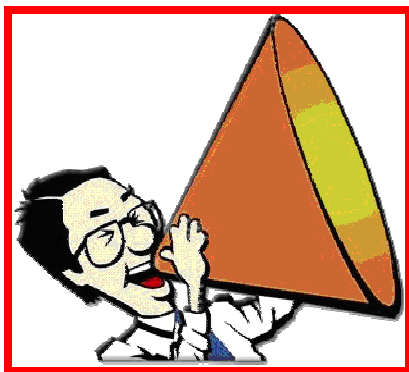
- supporting the integration of community health and general practice through common electronic assessment tools and shared management plans, and case conferencing for people with complex cases, including clear responsibility for case management

To access the blog, click on the link – “Provide examples of good community health practice (blog)” on the home page.

- decentralising community services from hospitals to locally-based, multi-service centres or polyclinics
- determining a preferred staffing profile for cross-service polyclinics, and the size of the population that each clinic could serve
- increasing the presence of community health staff in general practice, and GPs in community health services
- building on the success of Aged Care Assessment Teams by expanding this service model to address chronic disease management, and collocating these services with general practice and other community health services in polyclinics, and
- providing services in the community where the outcomes are as good as, or better than, in hospital, and where services can be provided as cost-effectively, if not more so.

Submissions and proposals like these can raise helpful and engaging debates, which are critical to the success of the Review.

What are your views – as well as older people and people with chronic diseases – would such suggestions be applicable to services for other people in the community? Do you know about a service or program that already takes approaches like these – can you provide us with information on the service model and any evaluative material?



**Have your say & be heard!**

If you have comments and suggestions on these or other proposals, you can post them on the Community Health Review blog.

Have your say about how to improve community health services in NSW!

### Community health in rural & remote NSW

An important aspect of the Review is examining how best to deliver quality community health services in rural and remote NSW.

“After all these years of trials and experimentation with rural and remote health services, surely it must be possible to describe the recipe for success? People in the bush certainly hope so...” (*Partyline, Newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance, March 2008*)



Through the Community Health Review we are looking for information about innovative, effective and good practice service delivery models that make best use of the resources and skills available in rural and remote areas. Perhaps you have experience and information about developments through statewide initiatives such as HealthOne or the *Australian Better Health Initiative* or a local solution?

Examples might involve services that are co-located, including health and non-health services. Is your health service doing innovative work, or using new service models, alongside education, community services, disability services, or Aboriginal, housing or corrective services – whether in the government, non-government or private sectors?

We are also looking for information on initiatives involving multi-disciplinary teams, including those with both health and non-health workers.

Information on rural and remote service models and innovative programs can be sent to [info@nswchr.net](mailto:info@nswchr.net)



## New CHR Project Leader

Paul Armstrong has taken up the role of Project Leader for the Community Health Review.

Paul has joined the Review from the Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Office within NSW Health, where he was an Associate Director. He has a range of experience in government policy, including health, as well as previous work in the non-government sector.

Paul will be steering the Community Health Review and is looking forward to tackling challenges at hand.

*Further information can be obtained from:*

**Paul Armstrong**  
**Project Leader**  
**Community Health Review**  
**Primary Health & Community**  
**Partnerships Branch**

Tel: 9424 5901 or Email:  
[parms@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:parms@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)

## Expansion of the Steering Group

The current Steering Group for the Review will be expanded in August. The broader membership will provide for additional perspectives to inform the strategic direction of the Review.

Joining the Steering Group are the Deputy Director-General, Strategic Development at NSW Health, two Area Health Service Chief Executives, and the Chair of the NSW GP Council.

The Steering Group is chaired by Professor Ron Penny.

