

**NATIONAL PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK FORUM
FORMAT FOR REPORTS FROM JURISDICTIONS**

State/Territory: Australian Capital Territory

HIGHLIGHTS OF REFORMS AND NEW INITIATIVES

1. CHRONIC DISEASE:

Reforms and New Initiatives	Description	Issues
The ACT Primary Health Care Strategy 2006-2009	<p>This ACT Primary Health Care Strategy 2006-2009 was launched in September 2006, and implementation is under way.</p> <p><i>Aims:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The overarching aims of the Strategy are that, in partnership, ACT Health, stakeholders, the community, carers and consumers will improve the health of the population by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aim 1- Providing population based and person centred health care through health promotion and early intervention, and chronic disease management. ➤ Aim 2- Providing continuity of health care through integration of services, improving co-ordination between ACT Health and other ACT Government funded services, and improving coordination with Australian Government supported services. ➤ Aim 3- Achieving high quality health care through improved information management, evaluation and research. <p>The ACT Primary Health Care Strategy recognises the social determinants of health, and aims to develop services with a population health approach. Health promotion activities focus on whole of life care including community development and individual empowerment. Particular attention is focused on health promotion activities that target populations with specific needs. Integration of services is another important aim, and the focus is on improving the patient journey, especially for vulnerable groups in the community. Specific initiatives focus on improving the health of these vulnerable groups.</p>	
Development of the ACT Chronic Disease Strategy	<p>The ACT Chronic Disease Strategy is currently under development and it is anticipated it will be complete early 2008.</p> <p><i>Aims:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The ACT Chronic Disease Strategy aims to improve the health of the ACT community through improved prevention, detection and management of chronic disease across the population. 	Stakeholder engagement across mainstream and private sectors.

	<p><i>Areas of Focus:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Action Area 1 - prevention and risk reduction across the continuum ◆ Action Area 2 - early detection and early treatment ◆ Action Area 3 - integration and continuity of prevention and care ◆ Action Area 4 - self-management ◆ Action Area 5 – research and surveillance <p>The draft ACT Chronic Disease Strategy acknowledges the links between risk factors for chronic disease and underlying social determinants. Health promotion activities will focus on the key issues of nutrition, physical activity, alcohol and smoking and will target consumers at critical points in their lifespan, such as children.</p>	
<p>ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006-2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A New Way: The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006-2011 was launched in early 2006 as a response to the requirements of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health that each jurisdiction develop a local implementation plan. The strategy was developed in collaboration with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Forum. <p><i>Areas of Focus:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006-2011 addresses the following focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Maternal and child health ➢ Chronic and infectious disease ➢ Social health ➢ Care of people with disabilities ➢ Aged care 	<p>Multiple stakeholder engagement</p>
<p>Services for all people with a new baby and at risk and high needs children</p>	<p>Universal services currently exist for all people in the ACT with a new baby. The vulnerable families project expands on these services by addressing the needs of vulnerable families with children up to the age of two, who are at risk due to having a parent who is on opiate replacement therapy or has a serious mental illness.</p>	

<p>Chronic Disease Self-Management Program</p>	<p>Programs that enhance the capacity of individuals to manage their own chronic disease have been demonstrated to be effective in improving their health, and reducing demand for health services. This program is conducted in partnership with the ACT Division of General Practice and Community Self Help Organisations and involves Stanford University Lorig Courses co-lead by a peer leader (volunteer - person with chronic condition) and a clinician from ACT Health. Courses are delivered in Community Centres across Canberra to clients/carers/families. The focus is on optimal self-care (physical, emotional and social) and active participation by people in their own health care, including health promotion, risk reduction, decision-making, care planning, medication management and working with health care providers.</p>	
<p>Appropriate supports for people who regularly attend Emergency Departments for chronic conditions</p>	<p>A number of people attend emergency departments on a regular basis for conditions that could be better managed in primary care settings. This program aims to identify the number and conditions of people in this category, and to link them in with more appropriate GP and/or community health services using an organised system-wide approach, to assist in the development of new models of care. The Improving Coordination in Chronic Disease Care program is being implemented through Ambulatory Care Services at the Canberra Hospital.</p>	
<p>Integrated Family Support Project</p>	<p>A bilateral project under the National Agenda for Early Childhood aims to improved outcomes for vulnerable and at-risk children and their families. This project involves building a coordinated service delivery model to meet the needs of high-risk families across the ACT. This project involves ten non-government services and three government departments, and trials began in late 2006.</p>	
<p>Early Childhood Schools</p>	<p>This project aims to enhance the provision of early education and care services. Commencing 2009, four new early childhood schools catering for students from preschool to year 2 (P-2) will be established under the ACT Government's School Renewal project. The early childhood schools will focus on quality early childhood education and early intervention, providing a solid foundation for learning for the future. Some early childhood services will be located with the P-2 schools.</p>	
<p>Integrated Indigenous Service Delivery</p>	<p>This initiative involves an integrated and coordinated approach to service delivery across identified health, education and family support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families. It includes the development of strategies to facilitate smooth transitions between early childhood services and primary schools for Indigenous children by improving the way the ACT Government services work in partnership with families.</p>	

ACT Chronic Disease Management Program	The ACT Chronic Disease Management Program involves a number of initiatives aimed at improving chronic disease management outcomes. Features include a healthy lifestyle page on the ACT Health website, a direct mail-out for 45-49 year olds to encourage them to take up the MBS scheme of medical checks, and a Patient Care Register which involves a register of all patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder, heart failure or diabetes. Patient status reports will be generated after a year, and feedback will be given to clinicians on how they are performing against benchmarks. There will also be a reminder recall system, which will prompt patients by SMS when their appointments are coming up.	
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2. OTHER:

Reforms and New Initiatives	Description	Issues
ACT Palliative Care Strategy 2007-2011	<p>The ACT Palliative Care Strategy 2007-2011 was launched in August 2007, and implementation is under way.</p> <p><i>Aims:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The ACT Palliative Care Strategy 2007-2011 aims to improve the palliative care services available to the ACT community by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Improving community education, awareness and participation ➢ Further developing a comprehensive ACT palliative care service ➢ Strengthening provision of primary care through the palliative approach ➢ Strengthening specialist palliative care services ➢ Further developing a skilled workforce, and ➢ Improving information management and data collection. 	