

Primary and Community Health Network

Terms of Reference

December 2002

1. Background

The Victorian Healthcare Association and the Australian Institute for Primary Care have established a Strategic Alliance, supported by a Heads of Agreement (June 2002-December 2003) to collaborate on a range of activities to promote and develop the interests of the Primary and Community Health sector and the role of both organisations in relation to the sector. These terms of reference hold for the period of the Heads of Agreement.

This Alliance is supported by a Primary and Community Health Network.

2. Purpose

The Primary and Community Health Network will inform and oversee the program of work to be undertaken under the terms of the Alliance to strengthen policy and practice through the interchange of ideas and information.

This program of work will include:

- An annual or biannual state wide Primary and Community Health Conference
- Development of national relationships within the Primary and Community Health Sector with a view to future events at a national and international level
- Development of a seminar series aimed at encouraging innovation and strategic thinking, delivered by speakers of national and international eminence
- Continuing the development and expansion of the Australian Journal of Primary Health
- Continuing the Community Health Awards Scheme
- Investigating the feasibility of establishing a clearing house for primary and community health on policy and practice
- Other activities as agreed by the Alliance and Network

3. Membership

Membership of the Primary and Community Health Network is open to key industry organisations who have an interest in primary and community health and workforce development. These include:

- Victorian Community Health Association
- Community Health Victoria
- General Practice Divisions Victoria
- Australian Institute for Primary Care
- Department of Human Services
- Other members as determined by the Network

Organisations interested in becoming Network members should write to the Network Chairperson expressing their interest. Expressions of interest will be submitted to the Network for endorsement.

Each organisation can nominate up to three people to attend Network meetings.

Additional people from member organisations can be asked to participate in Network sub-committees and working groups as required.

4. Meetings

Meetings of the Network will be held bi-monthly or as required.

5. Secretariat

The Primary and Community Health Network will be supported by a Project Officer located at the Centre for Development and Innovation in Health at the Australian Institute for Primary Care, LaTrobe University. The Project Officer will report to the Network.