

# Health Performance Council and Health Advisory Councils Fact Sheet

This fact sheet outlines the functions and responsibilities of the Health Performance Council under the *Health Care Act 2008*, its relationship to country Health Advisory Councils and the role that it will play in reviewing governance arrangements in the country regions of South Australia.

## What is the Health Performance Council?

The Health Performance Council (HPC) is an independent health advisory body that plays a vital role in providing high-level independent advice to the Minister for Health on the operation of the health system and health outcomes for South Australia and specific population groups.

The HPC also provides advice on the effectiveness of methods used within the health system to engage communities and individuals in improving their health outcomes.

## How is the HPC required to report?

Every four years, the HPC is required to provide a report to the Minister that assesses the health of South Australians and changes in health outcomes over the reporting period. The report must identify significant health trends and review the performance of the health system against the objects of the *Health Care Act 2008*, as well as identifying other significant issues. The HPC will also have to provide an annual report detailing the operations of the HPC during the financial year. These reports will be tabled in Parliament.

## How is the HPC structured?

The HPC consists of 15 members who together:

- have a high level of knowledge of, and expertise in, the provision of health care or the administration of health services;
- are able to represent the diversities of South Australia's communities; and
- have the experience, skills and qualifications necessary to enable the HPC to effectively carry out its functions.

More information on the membership of the HPC is available at <http://www.health.sa.gov.au>.

## What is the relationship between the HPC and country Health Advisory Councils (HACs)?

The *Health Care Act 2008* describes the relationship between the HPC and HACs:

- Section 11(2) of the *Health Care Act 2008* provides that the HPC should seek to obtain the views of HACs, to the extent reasonable and relevant in the circumstances, in the performance of its functions. As a result, it is expected that the HPC will consult HACs as part of the process of reviewing the performance of the health system and health outcomes for South Australians and specific population groups.
- The *Health Care Act 2008* also provides for the HPC to undertake a review of country governance arrangements (s101).


## Review of governance arrangements.

Within a reasonable time after the third anniversary of the commencement of the Act, s101 of the *Health Care Act 2008* requires the HPC to provide the Minister with a report on the operations of HACs established in relation to incorporated hospital(s) providing services in country South Australia.

The report must:

- Review the effectiveness of relevant HACs in promoting the interests of local communities; and



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- Review the level of satisfaction with the governance arrangements between the relevant HACs and any relevant hospital from the perspective of the members of the HACs, the local community and the hospital; and
  - Identify any other significant issues relating to the operations of the HACs considered relevant by the HPC.

This report will be tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Health, who will also provide a formal response to Parliament within six months of the delivery of the HPC's report.

**Further information**

For further information, please contact the Manager, Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Country Health SA Hospital Incorporated on 08 8226 6120.

