

STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES

In 2021-2022 East Wimmera Health Service (EWHS) assisted with the following state-wide priorities to develop and implement important system reforms, including modernising our health system through redesigned governance; driving system reforms that deliver better population health, high quality care and improved patient outcomes and experiences; and reforming clinical services to ensure we are delivering our community the best value care.

- Maintain robust COVID-19 readiness and response, working with the department to ensure rapid response to outbreaks, if and when they occur, which includes providing to testing for the community and staff, where necessary and if required. This includes preparing to participate in, and assist with, the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine immunisation program rollout, ensuring the local community's confidence in the program.

OUTCOMES:

- EWHS maintains outbreak management plans for all sites
 - All EWHS staff have received three doses of COVID-19 vaccine
 - EWHS maintains testing services at all sites
 - EWHS participates at a local level in the COVID positive pathways program, providing home monitoring and support
 - EWHS participates in the vaccine ambassador program promoting positive public health information in our communities regarding COVID prevention and safety
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- Actively collaborate on the development and delivery of priorities within the Health Service Partnership, contribute to inclusive and consensus-based decision-making, support optimum utilisation of services, facilities and resources within the Partnership, and be collectively accountable for delivery against Partnership accountabilities as set out in the Health Service Partnership Policy and Guidelines.

OUTCOMES:

- EWHS participates in Grampians Health Service Partnership as a core member and Loddon Mallee Health Service Partnership as an associate member
 - EWHS participates in both partnerships at Board, CEO and operational levels
 - EWHS is an active partner in a number of partnership projects including Grampians Telehealth project, Grampians Learning Hub implementation, Grampians Better at Home, Grampians Regional Clinical Governance activities and Grampians Timely Transfer of Older People
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- Engage with the community to address the needs of patients, especially vulnerable Victorians whose care has been delayed due to the pandemic and provide the necessary “catch-up” care to support them to get back on track. Work collaboratively with the Health Service Partnership to:
 - implement the Better at Home initiative to enhance in-home and virtual models of patient care when it is safe, appropriate and consistent with patient preference.

OUTCOMES:

- EWHS partners with local sub hub agencies (East Grampians Health Service and Maryborough District Health Service) to deliver Better at Home. EWHS supports home monitoring through call centre activity and through the roll out of “Home Guardian” virtual monitoring. These initiatives are supported by the local workforce visiting vulnerable clients face to face.
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- Address critical mental health demand pressures and support the implementation of mental health system reforms to embed integrated mental health and suicide prevention pathways for people with, or at risk of, mental illness or suicide through a whole-of-system approach as an active participant in the Health Service Partnership and through the Partnership’s engagement with Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Boards.

OUTCOMES:

- Working collaboratively with the Grampians Health Service Partnership to engage with local Mental Health Boards to develop a regional response to outcomes from the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System
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- Embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety Framework into the organisation and build a continuous quality improvement approach to improving cultural safety, underpinned by Aboriginal self-determination, to ensure delivery of culturally safe care to Aboriginal patients and families, and to provide culturally safe workplaces for Aboriginal employees.

OUTCOMES:

- EWHS utilises a Reconciliation Action Plan in partnership with Reconciliation Australia to address and embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety Framework
- The action plan that forms part of the Reconciliation Action Plan drives continuous quality improvement at EWHS in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety