

Community Information

Background

The Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) is developing the Dubbo, Narromine and Wellington Integrated Clinical Service Plan (CSP).

Consultation with communities began in May and continued through to July 2021. The WNSWLHD invited patients, carers and local people to complete an online survey or attend a drop-in session or pop-up stall at various locations.

The Community consultation process is an important part of a CSP, it helps shape the plan so we can provide services that meet a variety of individual, community and cultural needs.

Due to COVID-19 there has been some unavoidable delays with the development of the CSP following community consultation. The plan is now due out later in 2022.

What will be in the Clinical Services Plan?

The CSP will describe:

- The health needs of Dubbo, Narromine and Wellington both now and in the future, reflecting that the three locations are unique towns with their own identities and health requirements.
- The range of healthcare services needed by all those communities, taking into account changes to the population and how healthcare is provided.
- How healthcare services will be provided across the three towns, and how all three sites can work together and with other health care partners.
- Building and equipment requirements.

What comes next?

- The feedback we have heard from the community, health staff and our service partners will help us develop the CSP.
- The CSP will be focused on the current and emerging health needs on the population and how to best address these into the future.
- We heard about some services that we aren't directly responsible for, like general practice (GP). We will pass on this feedback to the relevant organisations, and work in partnership with them to deliver strong and sustainable health care.

What did we hear from you?

Narromine

The five biggest health problems identified by the community:



Drugs and Alcohol



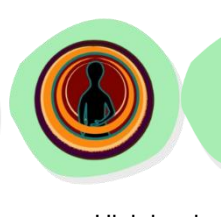
Mental Health



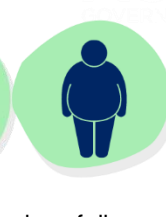
Cancer



Lifestyle factors;
Lack of exercise,
poor diet and
smoking.



High burden of disease
faced by Aboriginal
peoples and Obesity
(separate problems,
equally rated)



The community generally believe that the nursing staff at Narromine Health Service are well trained, caring and capable, and that the community nursing team play an important role in keeping people out of hospital.

The high-standard of the physiotherapy service was acknowledged. Palliative Care delivered locally in the hospital is very important to the community.

Key themes from the community service included:

- access to and long waits for GPs
- lack of a physical doctor at the hospital over the whole of the week
- virtual care has its place but not sufficient and should not replace face-to-face care
- provide good general healthcare services locally and build specialist services in Dubbo
- increase Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services
- provide more health promotion and early detection and treatment of disease
- provide better communication about which services are available
- distance and cost to travel to services, and
- the population of Narromine is ageing and services should reflect the needs of older people.