

@Health

An internal publication of SA Health



Dr Tony Sherbon

From the Chief Executive

We continue to make good progress on a range of initiatives related to ensuring health reform in SA results in improved health service delivery, cost efficiencies and ongoing improvements to safety and quality.

There are two initiatives at the fore this month that contribute to these outcomes.

The first is the Health Care Bill, which has now passed through Parliament and is expected to be proclaimed on 1 July 2008. A steering committee has been established to oversee and co-ordinate the implementation process and ensure new governance and legislative instruments are put in place for the Health Care Bill.

The second piece of work is the SA Metropolitan Hospital Efficiency and Performance Review, which was released on Tuesday 1 April 2008.

The review was commissioned in mid-2007 to determine where efficiencies and improvements could be made to improve services, improve the performance of SA public hospitals and maximise funds used for direct service to patients.

The final report contains 16 system-wide recommendations related to improving structuring, accounting and management practices, and to improve staff safety, patient care and the financial viability of services.

There are also a number of recommendations specific to each hospital.

The recommendations are consistent with the SA Health Care Plan, and some recommendations are already being implemented in line with existing health reform strategies.

Now that the final report has been released, an implementation plan will need to be developed by the health regions for each hospital, following full consideration of the recommendations by management and staff.

With the recent announcement of more than \$1 billion in additional federal funding nationally for 2008-09, as well as previously announced increases in state funding, it is important that SA public hospitals are as efficient as possible to make the best use of the additional funds. The efficiency review is a further opportunity to identify strategies that ensure resources for clinical services are maximised.

Dr Tony Sherbon

Chief Executive

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If you have an article for the May edition, please email the Communications Division at communications@health.sa.gov.au or telephone 8226 6599. People in all parts of SA Health are encouraged to contribute material to this newsletter. Deadline for contributions to the next edition: COB Monday 21 April 2008.

Shared Services discovery and staff consultations

John O'Connor, Chair of the SA Health Shared Services Transition Steering Committee, recently spoke to @Health about planning for the transition of accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll/HRMS functions to Shared Services SA.

"Shared Services SA and SA Health have begun a very detailed pre-transition planning process which will involve every site and office that undertakes accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll/HRMS functions," says John.

The work at each site begins with a process of discussing the services to be delivered to the site by Shared Services SA. Design of the services to be delivered will enable SA Health and Shared Services SA to identify the positions to be transitioned to Shared Services, determine the current costs of those services and ascertain the hospital and regional infrastructure required to deliver the services.

"These tasks are complex for SA Health because the organisation is large and has many sites with a range of accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll/HRMS processes in place," says John.

"It is essential that we work with Shared Services SA to ensure that these differences are thoroughly understood.

"The planning process must be highly consultative and involve the customers of Shared Services SA functions, the finance, human resources and information management people who support those functions and the people working directly in the activities that will become Shared Services SA."

These pre-transition planning processes have commenced on a site-by-site basis and will be completed by the end of June 2008. SA Health accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll/HRMS functions will be transitioned to Shared Services SA on a progressive basis during November and early December 2008.

"Early consultation with the people who will be directly affected by the transition is essential and Shared Services SA is committed to engaging directly with employees whose position will transition to Shared Services. This will give individuals the opportunity to discuss any issues with Shared Services SA and for staff to be provided with the most recent information available on the Shared Services SA transition process," says John.

"Transition planning in country locations will reflect the Government's announcement that regional employees will not be forced to relocate to Shared Services SA with their positions. Separate discussions will take place with country employees who are interested in relocating to ensure that these employees are aware of the assistance that can be provided.

"SA Health has established a Shared Services Transition Steering Committee and functional sub-committees to coordinate the transition to Shared Services SA and minimise duplication of effort across our portfolio."

Each of the committees has representation from the four regions, the IMVS, the Repatriation General Hospital and the SA Ambulance Service as well as from the Department of Health and Shared Services SA.

In addition to these formal processes of coordination and consultation, Shared Services SA is continuing to provide a series of briefings and workshops for SA Health staff interested in shared services and particularly for those involved in planning for the transition.

More information on Shared Services SA can be obtained from their website at <http://www.treasury.sa.gov.au/sharedservices/>. A regular newsletter is also distributed to all government employees via SAGEMS.

"Early consultation with the people who will be directly affected by the transition is essential and Shared Services SA is committed to engaging directly with employees whose position will transition to Shared Services.

South Australia leading the way

Developing and sustaining the state of health at the beginning of the 21st century is not dissimilar to developing and sustaining the state of the environment. A paradigm shift in our thinking and the way we organise our society will be required to achieve the breakthrough to a healthier sustainable future. For health this will require the development of innovative solutions such as Health in All Policies (Professor Ilona Kickbusch, Adelaide Thinker in Residence, November 2007).

At the 'Health in All Policies' (HiAP) conference held in Adelaide on 21 November 2007, Adelaide's recent Thinker in Residence Professor Ilona Kickbusch challenged South Australia to implement HiAP and laid out a series of steps to guide us in the development of this approach.

HiAP is an innovative whole of government strategy that aims to increase the positive impacts and reduce the negative impacts that policy decisions of non-health sectors can have on our health and wellbeing. It recognises that our health is largely influenced by social factors that lie outside the influence of the health system, yet are strongly affected by the policy decisions of government and non-government agencies. This approach also identifies ways in which health contributes to the achievement of other policy goals.

Dr Richenda Webb, Acting Executive Director of Public Health and Clinical Coordination for the Department of Health, says that the ethos of HiAP has roots in the development of the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion in 1986, through which the international public health community documented the importance of healthy public policy.

"HiAP moves to an understanding, shared by health and non-health sectors, of the ways health, environment and economic agendas interact to reinforce health outcomes," says Richenda.

"It strives for win-win policy solutions that enable both improved population health and the realisation of non-health sector goals."

In response to Professor Kickbusch's challenge to implement HiAP, the November 2007 conference was held with the aim of translating policy into practice and, in the process, developing an innovative early stage HiAP model.

"The conference, jointly convened by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Health, attracted over 150 senior executives from across South Australian Government," says Richenda.



Tony Sherbon, CE SA Health, Health Minister John Hill, Minister for International Relations, Quebec, Madame Monique Gagnon-Tremblay and Dr Richard Masse, Executive Director, National Institute for Public Health Quebec) at the signing of a South Australian Québec letter of intent concerning public health issues.

“This helped to build an understanding of the critical role that high level policy decisions have on the health and wellbeing of all South Australians.”

“It aimed to demonstrate the connection between population health and wellbeing and the economy and South Australian Strategic Plan (SASP) targets.

“A health lens was placed across seven of the SASP targets, showing how health considerations could be integrated with a wide range on non-health policy areas.”

“This helped to build an understanding of the critical role that high level policy decisions have on the health and wellbeing of all South Australians.”

“Feedback from delegates was overwhelmingly positive, with Professor Kickbusch remarking that the methodology used to engage agencies in the lead up to the HiAP Conference was among the world’s best.”

“Professor Kickbusch also stated that the conference itself places South Australia as an international leader in the development of across government strategies to achieve healthy public policy,” adds Richenda.

An important outcome from the conference was the development of a set of high level HiAP policy principles. These have been included in Professor Kickbusch’s final report along with a series of recommendations on how South Australia can continue to refine the HiAP Model and ensure that it becomes embedded into the planning process of SASP. To continue the momentum created during Professor Kickbusch’s residency and the HiAP conference three further events were held in February 2008.

Health in All Policies Forum

The Health in All Policies Forum, held on 19 February 2008, was organised in response to feedback from HiAP Conference delegates. Delegates suggested that increasing the HiAP knowledge and skills of key government policy makers and ensuring that an HiAP approach is integrated into the SASP planning process would be valuable. The forum program advocated that participants consider the experiences of other jurisdictions that have incorporated population health issues across government, and identify their application to South Australia. The aim of this advocacy was to increase technical ability across government to apply the health lens and implement HiAP.

The Department of Health is now in discussion with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to consider how best to progress HiAP in line with Professor Kickbusch’s recommendations and feedback from both HiAP conference and forum delegates.

“Professor Kickbusch also stated that the conference itself places South Australia as an international leader in the development of across government strategies to achieve healthy public policy”

Joint Letter of Intent between Quebec and South Australia

While in Adelaide to attend the Health in All Policies Forum, Dr Richard Masse, the President-Director General of the National Institute for Public Health - Quebec, gave several sessions on Quebec's approach to reforming public health and the benefits of including healthy public policy in government decision making. He described the importance of including public health legislation as a foundation upon which to build an HiAP approach

During the planning for Dr Masse's visit the opportunity arose for South Australia and Quebec to formalise their emerging relationship in the areas of public health and healthy public policy. The joint signing of a 'Letter of Intent' was an extraordinary opportunity for South Australia to share its growing skill in applying HiAP and to learn from Quebec's experience with public health legislation and health impact assessment.

At the formal signing ceremony Health Minister John Hill and the Quebec Minister for International Relations, Madame Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, signed the letter. Dr Tony Sherbon signed on behalf of SA Health and Dr Masse signed on behalf of the National Institute for Public Health Quebec with the endorsement of the Quebec Minister of Health (see photo on page 3).

The letter identified five areas for further exploration and exchange, including:

1. The organisation of public health
2. Public health policies and health impact assessment
3. The organisation and planning of emergency measures and preparedness in the event of a pandemic
4. Primary health care organisation models and their linkage to public health
5. Health strategies for Aboriginal/first nation, Inuit and Meti communities.

Systems will be established to support a regular exchange of ideas.

Health in All Policies Workshop

A Health in All Policies Workshop, facilitated by Mr Robert Quigley, was organised to help key government officers to develop an understanding of the theory, principles and methods of impact assessment and to learn how these tools can assist in applying an HiAP health lens.

The workshop was so well received that plans are underway to run additional workshops in the future.

Further information about HiAP can be found in the latest edition of the Department of Health's [Public Health Bulletin](#).

Editorial by Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, Dr Tony Sherbon and Mr Warren McCann, Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet about HiAP has also appeared in the journal [Health Promotion International](#).

For further information about any of these articles please contact Carmel Williams, Danny Broderick or Deb Wildgoose on 8226 7108.

SA Quebec Health Agreement

1. The organisation of public health
2. Public health policies and health impact assessment
3. The organisation and planning of emergency measures and preparedness in the event of a pandemic
4. Primary health care organisation models and their linkage to public health
5. Health strategies for Aboriginal/first nation, Inuit and Meti communities.

Call for abstracts - Better Choices Better Health Conference

Abstracts are now invited for this important, multidisciplinary conference which will explore ways of achieving optimum health, social and return to work outcomes for people injured on our roads and in our workplaces.

Closing date for abstracts is **Friday 18 April 2008**.

The principal conference themes are:

- > recognised best practice management of soft tissue injuries
- > the compensation setting
- > return to work and the community
- > building capacity (through education and research).

Topic suggestions include:

- > impact of different compensation schemes on outcomes
- > prognostic and diagnostic procedures
- > best practice case/claims management
- > return to work, return to community/life roles
- > legal issues around compensation, rehabilitation and return to work
- > clinical pathways and guidelines
- > chronic pain
- > best practice injury management
- > work-place based initiatives
- > evidence based practice in rehabilitation
- > consumer perspectives
- > psychosocial aspects of injury
- > self management of chronic conditions
- > treatment modalities
- > research and professional development

Keynote speakers include:

- > The Hon Sir Anthony Mason, AC KBE QC, Former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia
- > Professor Gwendolen Jull, Professor of Physiotherapy, University of Queensland
- > Professor Patrick Loisel, MD, FRCSC, Professor Faculty of Medicine, Sherbrooke University, (Quebec).

All abstracts are to be submitted electronically in accordance with [conference guidelines](#) and should be submitted by **Friday 18 April 2008**.

For further information:

visit the conference website at <http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/BetterChoicesBetterHealth>

telephone 08 8354 2285

fax 08 8354 1456

email conference@aomevents.com

A cut above the rest

Best practice standards for leading hairdressing, piercing and beauty salons

Personal care businesses in the City of Holdfast Bay have recently been working towards standards of excellence by participating in the 'A Cut Above the Rest' program, the first of its kind in South Australia.

Project Coordinator Brigitte Schulz explains that "instead of relying purely on routine inspections by council's health staff, participants in the program have been given information that enables them to assess hygiene practices and identify potential health risks in their own businesses.

"Over 100 personal care businesses in the City of Holdfast Bay were eligible to participate in the program, including beauty, hair, nail and makeup salons, body piercers, solariums, acupuncturists, tattooists and hair removal clinics," she adds.

Advertisements were published in local newspapers, inviting personal care businesses to participate. In addition to these ads, a public awareness campaign was launched to inform the community about what to expect in relation to basic hygiene standards from these businesses.

In conjunction with Helen Psarras from the Department of Health, Brigitte ran information sessions for staff from personal care businesses. These sessions were well attended and received, and prompted participants to take a new informed look at their businesses and make necessary changes.

"Classique Hair Design of Seacliff Park was the first participating business to complete the program and has been awarded a 2007 Business Certificate," Brigitte says.

The project is now being followed up with routine inspections by Environmental Health Officers.

"The public is often unaware of the potential health risks in the personal care industries," Brigitte says.

"Recent studies have highlighted that items not necessarily intended for piercing the skin such as files, nail clippers, electric hair clippers, razors and hair removal wax may easily become contaminated with blood or body fluids and expose workers and clients to infection.

"The risk of infection to customers and staff can be reduced through proper cleaning of hands, implements and the workplace environment, and by using disposable, single-use implements where possible."

Guidelines have been developed especially for the hairdressing, beauty and body-piercing industries under the provisions of the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987. All salons should use these guidelines to ensure implements are cleaned and sterilised properly, and that customers and staff are not exposed to an unreasonable health risks.



*Ms Brigitte Schulz – Project Coordinator,
Mr Ken Rolland – Mayor of City of Holdfast Bay,
and Deborah Ellis – Manager Classique Hair Design.*

“The taskforce recognises that aggression and bullying are serious and complex issues that affect individuals, organisations and the community”.

Safe Conduct and Respectful Behaviour Taskforce

In late 2006, Minister for Health Hon. John Hill established the Safe Conduct and Respectful Behaviour Taskforce. The purpose of the taskforce is to identify mechanisms that support safe conduct and respectful behaviours of everyone within health care workplaces.

The taskforce meets monthly and is chaired by Etienne Scheepers, Executive Director of Workforce Development. It contributes to the service delivery outcomes of the *SA Health Strategic Plan 2007-2009* and the *SA Health Care Plan 2007-2016*.

“The taskforce recognises that aggression and bullying are serious and complex issues that affect individuals, organisations and the community,” says Etienne.

The taskforce will work to identify and promote safe conduct and respectful behaviour in the South Australian public health system, with the aim of providing safe and healthy workplaces. Ways to prevent and manage harmful behaviour will also be investigated.

For the purposes of the taskforce, harmful behaviour is taken to include violent, aggressive, bullying, disrespectful and harassing behaviours directed at employees by patients, visitors and others and at employees by other employees.

The taskforce has recently endorsed Terms of Reference and its membership includes an extensive range of regional and union representatives from across SA Health.

Five working parties have been established by the taskforce:

- > Policy and Documentation
- > Data and Reporting
- > Education and Training
- > Literature Review and Research
- > Communication.

Each of the working parties has developed an action plan and work is underway to identify current policy, education and training programs, existing reporting tools and mechanisms and communication pathways. In addition, a literature review is being conducted in collaboration with the University of South Australia.

“The outcomes of the taskforce will culminate in a report containing recommendations for SA Health-wide policies, reporting systems and education and training programs. The report will be presented to the Portfolio Executive by the end of 2008,” says Etienne.

For further information please contact Gabrielle Warner, Project Officer for the Safe Conduct and Respectful Behaviour Taskforce, on 8226 6548 or via email to Gabrielle.Warner@health.sa.gov.au.

The e-Health Care Planning System will allow general practitioners to develop a web-based care plan for patients with chronic conditions.



e-Health Care Planning System underway

HealthConnect SA has recently signed an agreement with Pen Computer Systems Pty Ltd to develop a web-based care planning system.

The e-Health Care Planning System will allow general practitioners to develop a web-based care plan for patients with chronic conditions. Once developed, care plans can be stored on a secure server, enabling authorised members of the health care team to access and update them in real time and giving patients the opportunity to view their care plan online.

Andrew McAlindon, Director of HealthConnect SA, announced the award of the contract on 7 March 2008.

"The new care planning system will create personalised care management plans containing details of each patient's problems and needs. It sets out goals for alleviating or resolving the problems, strategies to achieve those goals and planned activities for monitoring progress and reviewing the care plan" says Andrew.

The e-Health Care Planning System is being implemented as a way of effectively managing chronic conditions, which requires a coordinated and collaborative approach by health care providers across a number of disciplines.

"It is well documented that the current treatment model for chronic disease is unsustainable, with one of the key areas addressed in *South Australia's Health Care Plan 2007-2016* being the improved management of chronic disease and enhanced primary health care services," says Andrew.

"A key strategy aimed at improving primary health care services is to facilitate the collaboration of health care providers and, in doing so, implement programs that support risk factor identification, self-management, chronic disease management, and out of hospital care.

"HealthConnect SA is delivering projects to assist health care teams to manage patients with chronic conditions collaboratively and the e-Health Care Planning System will play a vital role in facilitating this process.

"The benefits of the e-Health Care Planning System will be significant for both patients and health care providers."

The development of the e-Health Care Planning System will be via a staged approach, with Stage 1 delivering a fully functional system prototype by September 2008. Comprehensive stakeholder testing and approval will be undertaken in readiness for the rollout of Stage 2, being the full system build and deployment within South Australia.

For more information about the project, go to the e-Health Care Planning System page at www.healthconnectsa.org.au, or call Cathy Teager, Senior Project Manager, on 1300 767 881.





Minister Hill with Vegie Man, Amie-Jane (APM), athletes Steven Salopek, David Rodan and Erin Phillips, plus school captains from St Leonards Primary School.

Power school visit to kick off healthy eating

Health Minister John Hill has joined the Power's Steven Salopek, David Rodan and Erin Phillips in spreading the message to school kids about the importance living a healthy lifestyle.

"Living healthy is all about getting into good habits, and if we can teach young South Australians about the importance of good diet and regular exercise then there's a pretty good chance they'll lead long and healthy lives," says Minister Hill.

"Research shows children are less fit now than a decade ago and at the same time, we're seeing rising levels of obesity among children with around one in five outside their healthy weight range.

"Aussie Rules football is just one way kids can help maintain a healthy lifestyle, and I'm tremendously proud to be working alongside great role-models like Steve, David and Erin in spreading this message.

Power players and other elite athletes visit primary schools each year through the Power Community Youth Program to talk to kids about the importance of eating well and being active. The Adelaide Produce Market, which is one of the SA Health Department's key partners in the Go for 2&5® campaign, supports Port Power to deliver the program.

"The athletes do a great job of discussing issues that students understand including motivation, goal setting, decision making, team work, time management and physical activity," says Minister Hill.

Steven Salopek says the school visits were an important part of the club's commitment to the youth of South Australia and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

"It's not just elite footballers who need to look after themselves, and as role models to many in the community we as a club are committed to spreading the word that plenty of exercise and a healthy diet is a recipe for kicking goals for life," says Steve.

Minister Hill says the visit is also a chance to promote the nationwide Go for 2&5 campaign to get us to eat more fruit and vegetables.

"The campaign explains that we need to eat two serves of fruit and five serves of veg every day to stay healthy. It also shows us just how easy it is to include more of these foods in our every day diets," he says.

"One of the key messages is the importance of eating plenty of fruit and veg and it's also a great way of enjoying the many great, healthy products that are available."

Some of the tips students can learn from athletes and the 2&5 campaign include:

- > drinking more water (and saving soft drinks and cordials for special occasions)
- > eating more fruit and veg as snacks
- > trying multi-grain breads and cereals with less sugar, and low-fat dairy products like milk, cheese and yoghurt
- > making chips, pastries and lollies "sometimes" foods not everyday foods
- > starting the day with a healthy breakfast
- > being active for an hour everyday (and turning off the screen after 2 hours).

"There's a definite link between a diet high in fruit and vegetables and a lower risk of developing a range of illnesses and conditions, including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, certain cancers and high blood pressure," says Minister Hill.

"While it might seem like an obvious message, it's clearly one that needs to be communicated. Not all children eat enough fruit and veg".

Emergency South Australia Conference

15-17 May 2008

Holiday Inn

Hindley Street, Adelaide

Building on the success of the EMSA 2007 conference, which was a first for Australia, EMSA 2008 continues to be unique in both South Australia and the nation.

The disciplines of emergency medicine, emergency nursing and pre-hospital emergency care are collaborating to bring this conference to colleagues across the emergency health care spectrum. To be held over an evening and two subsequent days, *EMSA 08* will bring outstanding educational, networking and practical experiences, as well as exposure to the latest products for emergency health care.

Keynote presentations include:

- > *Research to Clinical Practice*
Professor Peter Cameron, Director, Research, Emergency and Trauma Centre Alfred Hospital.
- > *Real World Triage; Lessons learned from East Timor, Banda Aceh and Iraq*
Doctor Bruce Paix, Senior Staff Specialist in Anaesthesia, Flinders Medical Centre.
- > *Risk Mapping and Response*
David Place, Commissioner of Fire and Emergencies, SafeCom.
- > *Chain of Myocardial Survival*
Dr Chris Zeitz, Senior Lecturer in Cardiology, University of Adelaide and Director of Interventional Cardiology at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Workshops include:

- > *Snakes Alive: Updates in Toxinology*
Prof Julian White (featuring an interactive live snakes presentation)
- > *Bombs, Blasts and Bullets (B3)*
Convenor, Doctor David Caldicott
- > *Emergency Care Workshops*
Latest updates in emergency medicine by Adelaide's emergency physicians and surgeons
- > *Ultrasound Workshop*
Including vascular access and nerve blocks under US guidance.

Book prior to 18 April 2008 for a chance to win half a dozen coriole wines.

CME or equivalent points available.

RACGP approved for procedural grant status.

For further information and registration forms visit www.emergencysa.org.au



Health Families and Communities Social Club update

The Health Families and Communities Social Club organises various social functions throughout the year including happy hours, quiz nights, pool nights and Christmas events. They also organise the [football tipping competition](#) which has weekly and end of season prizes, and group discount tickets to events such as the Royal Adelaide Show in September. All of these functions are either free or heavily discounted for social club members. At a cost of \$4.00 per fortnight your attendance at only two or three of the functions will recover your membership fee. It's a great opportunity to meet and mix with other employees from the Department of Health and the Department for Families and Communities.

The first social club event for this year was a quiz night held on Friday 14 March. Congratulations to the team from Aboriginal Health who won on the night with 91 points.

The Social Club welcomes ideas for events and feedback from all staff members. Please visit the [Social Club](#) website where you'll find a membership form or you can direct any queries to Kath Thomas (President) on 8226 7141 or Steve Byrne (Treasurer) on 8226 6296.



Men urged to look at own health

As detailed in the March edition of @Health, the annual Man Alive! Festival was held in Semaphore on 16 March 2008. The festival aimed to encourage South Australian men to take a stronger interest in their own health through a new men's health plan and strategy.

Speaking at the festival, Health Minister John Hill said the South Australian Men's Health Strategic Framework (2008 – 2012), which incorporates public comment given during March 2008, has been developed.

"The framework will provide a common set of principles and a co-ordinated direction for services and research in men's health, and aims to tackle the problem of men ignoring concerns about their health," said Minister Hill.

"It is well known that many men typically wait too long to access health services.

"Evidence also shows that the leading causes of death, illnesses, and injuries are largely preventable. It seems many men don't like to talk about their health and figures prove that men still visit their GP far less than women. I want to urge men to think of their families, their children and their partners, and to think what impact their illness would have on their families.

"We know that among the top causes of loss of life years due to premature death and illness in men in South Australia for 2001-03 were ischemic heart disease, strokes and lung cancer.

Minister Hill also noted that obesity is another major health issue for Australian men. The proportion of males aged 18 years and over in South Australia who are overweight has remained steady from 1991 to 2006 at rates ranging from 37.2% to 38.0%. During the same period the proportion of males who are obese increased from 9.8% to 21.3%.

"The simple fact is that Australian men need to take more time in looking after their health and I hope the new framework will at least encourage them to give their health more thought," said Minister Hill.

Some of the main objectives of the framework include:

- > support for GP Plus Health Networks to provide continuity of care that's responsive to the diversity of men accessing general practice, community health and hospital services
- > focus on strategies that will support men to take greater responsibility for their own chronic disease prevention and management
- > support for policies and programs addressing Aboriginal male health.

"We already know a lot about men's health, but there are also many areas we need to know more about so that we can develop effective strategies to improve health and wellbeing," said Minister Hill.

The South Australian Men's Health Strategic Framework (2008-2012) draft can be viewed at www.health.sa.gov.au.