

facts

Better health for our community through long-term planning

Metro South Health undertakes detailed planning to ensure our services meet the current and future needs of everyone in our community.

What is health service planning?

Health service planning is the process of aligning health services with the changing patterns of population need, while making the most effective use of current and future resources. It helps health services respond to changes in population, demand, and new technology.

At Metro South Health, we undertake planning over the medium to long-term in order to:



improve population health outcomes



ensure our services are patient-focused



deliver quality, safe, sustainable, accessible and culturally appropriate services

Why do we plan?

- » To improve health service delivery and efficiency
- » To match services to changing populations
- » To forecast future areas of service need
- » To prioritise the allocation of resources.

How do we determine what services are needed?

Our planning team looks at the population today and what it will be like in the future. This includes demographics such as:

- » current and projected population—size, distribution and density
- » socio-economic status
- » significant trends for geographic catchments in the planning area, or among particular age or ethnic groups
- » age breakdown—the main characteristics of the population and how they may be changing (e.g. getting older/younger).

Steps to planning quality health services for our community

1. Understand the population and the health services that are already provided.
2. Identify the health service needs of the population.
3. Prioritise the health service needs of the population.
4. Analyse and develop options for delivering health services.
5. Assess the risks and benefits of these options.
6. Finalise the plan.
7. Implement and communicate the planning outcomes.
8. Regularly review the plan to ensure it is still relevant.

