Health Leaders Forum

‘Opportunities and challenges for Medicare Locals and Hospitals and Health Services in achieving a high performing, integrated health system’

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Regional & Remote focus Qld
NWHHS Region

- 300,000 square km, 34,000 people;
- 75% of population non Indigenous
- Communities of Mount Isa, Burketown, Camooweal, Cloncurry, Dajarra, Doomadgee, Julia Creek, Karumba, Mornington Island and Normanton.
- Partnerships with key agencies to provide services. RFDS, GPs, Medicare Local, Gidgee ACCHO
- Mt Isa hospital, (83 beds); 2 MPHS and 3 other hospitals from Doomadgee Hospital (7 beds) to Cloncurry Hospital (25 beds)
- Townsville is tertiary referral centre
Challenges – rural and remote

- Interesting transitional challenges for HHS to regional control
- Solid alignments with all service providers and initiatives.
- Distance?
Opportunities

- A shared understanding that we have to do it better
- A shared understanding of rural and remote issues
- Increase focus on primary care, developing models of effective health promotion and prevention in remote region
- Focus on a more seamless patient access to primary, secondary and tertiary services
- Opportunity to jointly advocate for initiatives for remote areas to improve health outcomes
- Ability to do joint planning with local government and tertiary sector through JCU/MICRRH to innovate with training and workforce development
Advice to date..

- Major transition in forming good system structures of HHS Boards
- To achieve the holy grail of proper integration will require good political understanding and support from the Commonwealth and State (and Local)
- An (understandable) tight fiscal environment will leave loose program and initiative threads. These are issues for Boards to accept and advise.
Future gazing

- In a public system the transition will need good clear direction and commitment by government. We will perform with certainty.
- Introduce private business ethics to weld with a public commitment.
- System goals should recognise and support real issues in remote Aus – population, (NWHHS has pop density of 0.1 people/square km)
- Strong opportunity for unique innovative models to develop with combined capacity of MLs, HHS, academic sector, local govt and NGO sector to better support and respond to health needs of the community.
- We will be the Leading HHS in Queensland - of that I have no doubt!