

Dear Minister Ferguson

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to hear you speak on the exposure draft of the White Paper re One Health System (OHS) at the RHH on the 1 April.

As a proud member of the State Service, I was very pleased to hear you speak on this subject with obvious knowledge and a clear desire to effect change to support sustainable healthcare in the best way possible.

In the paper and also at the forum at the RHH on the 1st April, comment was made in relation to Nursing (1) and Allied Health (2) being the largest clinical employee groups, thus additional consultation and possibly CAG's will be developed to ensure every opportunity to consult. You also make reference to additional/future public forums.

Out of the 5189 employees in THO South (June 2014), 35% (1798) are support service staff (Environmental Services, Food Services, Administration etc).

Therefore, this cohort of staff are your largest staff group, (all be it not clinical, thus not CAG worthy).

I did a quick auditorium assessment at the meeting held on 1 April and from my assessment, I could not see one staff member present from this supported service cohort.

This is not uncommon, as it is often this cohort of staff who are either not advised of meetings, feel they have nothing to add ("those meetings are just for the bosses") or are unable to leave their workplaces due to time critical operational activity.

I think this is an opportunity missed, as it is these 35% of staff who will not be going home to their families and loved ones to talk about the OHS, therefore a significant proportion of the public will not be hearing about the positive work you are doing from the people that are directly impacted and on who they rely.

Providing forums for this group where they feel they can listen, supported by peer groups, will go a significant way towards breaking down barriers and raising awareness internally and into the broader community.


I would also like to raise another point and that is in relation to health information.

For several years, all three THO have been advocating for standardised processes and systems in relation to the management of clinical information and with the release of the Digital Medical Record (DMR) into THO-N in July 2015, we are a significant step closer to achieving this. As part of this statewide collaboration, a cohort of specialised Health Informatics specialists developed the Health Information Action Group (HIAG), with 3 x CEO support, to facilitate a transfer to statewide clinical record keeping best practice.

As discussed on page 61 of the paper, governance is essential in the move to the OHS and it is essential that clinical information management (eHealth and other), is reviewed and modified in the governance framework activity. HIAG are an ideal tool to facilitate and support this work and whilst not technically classed as a CAG (page 62 of the exposure draft), Health Information Managers (HIM's) are certainly subject matter experts in the field of clinical information management and governance.

Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,
Mark

 Tasmania	Mark Upton (GradDip Health & Human Services, Certified Health Information Practitioner- CHIP) Manager, Patient Information Management Services (PIMS) Royal Hobart Hospital. THO-South.	Phone	(03) 6222 8687
		Fax	(03) 6222 7508
		Email	mark.upton@dhhs.tas.gov.au
		Post	GPO Box 1061, Hobart, Tas 7001

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER The information in this transmission may be confidential and/or protected by legal professional privilege, and is intended only for the person or persons to whom it is addressed. If you are not such a person, you are warned that any disclosure, copying or dissemination of the information is unauthorised. If you have received the transmission in error, please immediately contact this office by telephone, fax or email, to inform us of the error and to enable arrangements to be made for the destruction of the transmission, or its return at our cost. No liability is accepted for any unauthorised use of the information contained in this transmission.