

Commissioning for better health

What is commissioning?

At its simplest, commissioning means planning and buying services to meet the health needs of local populations. It involves understanding local priority issues and buying appropriate services to address those issues in the most effective and efficient way.

Commissioning is different to the way Primary Health Tasmania has been buying health services in the past. There is now a strong focus on ensuring outcomes for communities and populations, rather than a focus on delivering activity.

How are we doing it?

As well as planning and procuring, our commissioning model involves a continuous cycle of engagement and collaboration with communities, service providers and other stakeholders to ensure fit-for-purpose services and initiatives are designed and delivered to improve the health of Tasmanians.

Primary Health Tasmania's commissioning model involves four phases in a cyclical process:

1. **Assessing needs** – understanding what local communities need and working out the local priorities we can address based on this information.
2. **Designing solutions** – working with others to identify the most efficient and effective ways we can address the identified priorities.
3. **Implementing solutions** – procuring quality health services and initiatives and proactively working with providers to monitor performance and progress towards agreed outcomes.
4. **Evaluating outcomes** – assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of services and initiatives (including value for both health gains and money) against outcomes, and informing priorities for future investment in successive commissioning cycles.

While described as four phases, the commissioning cycle is a fluid process, requiring consideration of all elements of commissioning through each phase of the cycle. For example, during the assessing needs phase, measuring and evaluating outcomes needs to be considered early as part of understanding the priority needs and identifying what we want to change. The design and implementing solutions phases then need to lead to measurable and achievable outcomes.

Which services are we commissioning?

Primary Health Tasmania has commissioned services in the following areas:

- Aboriginal health
- alcohol and other drugs
- mental health
- rural primary health
- support for humanitarian entrants.

Getting involved

Tenders are publicised and managed via our eTender portal at www.tenderlink.com/primaryhealthtas

More information

More information about our commissioning activity is on our website at www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/commissioning

You can get in touch with us by calling 1300 653 169 or emailing info@primaryhealthtas.com.au.

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