

POSITION STATEMENT

MAY 2009



THE “GP SUPER CLINICS” INITIATIVE IN TASMANIA

General Practice Tasmania (GPT) supports the need for greater investment in primary care infrastructure and the need to provide better environments to support multi-disciplinary team based primary care as well as the training of the future primary care workforce. GPT acknowledges the place of the Federal Government’s GP Super Clinic initiative in attempting to address this need.

In Tasmania, GP Super Clinics are planned for Clarence, Sorell, Burnie and Devonport. General Practice Tasmania believes that the following principles must apply to the planning of these GP Super Clinics:

- The service model for GP Super Clinics must be adaptable to local needs, integrate smoothly with existing care and referral pathways and be planned with meaningful input from the communities in which they are located, including all local GPs;
- The potential for expansion of existing primary care services to meet local needs must be considered as well as the capacity of the Super Clinic to service and support neighbouring practices;
- Service integration must be built into the GP Super Clinics service model rather than a reliance on collocation of services alone. This will require investment in information systems that support shared patient care as well as clinical and organisational governance models that involve all members of the health care team;
- A GP Super Clinic should include an appropriate range of primary care services based on the needs of the community and not be inappropriately selective or discriminatory in the services that are offered;
- GP Super Clinics must not be marketed in a way that gives false expectation that the quality of primary care within the Super Clinics will be superior, at lower cost or easier to access than any other general practice;
- If there is potential for the establishment of a GP Super Clinic to draw doctors away from local practices, planning should address any potential impact on access to local services;
- The introduction of a GP Super Clinic to a community must not compete unfairly or jeopardise the viability of existing general practices;
- GP Super Clinics should be funded through a viable and sustainable business model that is similar to surrounding practices;
- GP Super Clinics must not be expected to offer a higher rate of bulk-billing than is generally available to the community; and
- The service model must equally support referrals from outside the Super Clinic.

The General Practice Tasmania network is a unique statewide infrastructure that supports contemporary general practice in Tasmania by linking GPs with each other, by supporting all members of the general practice team and by supporting allied health professionals to be part of the primary care team.
General Practice Tasmania is also a proud member of the Australian General Practice Network.



The General Practice Tasmania Network has developed position statements on various issues relevant to the operation of the health services system and relating to general practice across the State. These position statements reflect the views of Tasmanian GPs and the primary care community.

Each position statement is based upon research and the analysis of relevant literature as well as an assessment of the broader health sector environment. The position statements are developed collaboratively between the State Based Organisation, the three Divisions of General Practice and the Workforce Support Agency within Tasmania. During the development of each statement the Divisions and Workforce Agency consult with their Tasmanian GP members and Boards respectively. Prior to release the statements are ratified by the Boards of each of the organisations that constitute the General Practice Tasmania Network.

Collaboration with other general practice organisations (eg General Practice Training Tasmania, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, etc) is also a feature in the development of some position statements. The co-endorsement of position statements maximises the effectiveness of these statements and represents a strong collective view.

It is expected that position statements will evolve to reflect the ever-changing health and general practice environment. Accordingly feedback and comment is invited to ensure that the position statements continue to be relevant and accurately reflect the views of the Tasmanian general practice and primary care community.

To provide feedback on any position statement please contact any of the organisations that constitute the General Practice Tasmania Network:



GENERAL PRACTICE
south

GENERAL PRACTICE SOUTH

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GENERAL PRACTICE
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GENERAL PRACTICE
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GENERAL PRACTICE
workforce

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GENERAL PRACTICE
tasmania

GENERAL PRACTICE TASMANIA

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