



HSRAANZ Webinar Series

Panel on commissioning health care in Australia – reflecting on Primary Health Networks

**Thursday 23 June 2016 at 2pm (GMT+10:00) Canberra,
Melbourne, Qland, Sydney (12pm WA, 1.30pm SA, 4pm New
Zealand)**

There is no cost to attend the Webinar but registration is essential. Please register at:

<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/cbc7732e96c39772dc2040ba88984b7b>

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about
joining the webinar.**

Abstract

Health systems are challenged by pressures of increased demand and rising costs. The rise in complex chronic conditions means that the current system design that stems from an era when communicable disease was more prevalent than chronic is struggling to meet the changing health needs of the population. As governments look to ways to reform health systems we have seen an interest in the role of commissioning as a mechanism through which to reform many different aspects of public services. Primary Health Networks (PHN) have been charged with commissioning primary care services in Australia. The essence of commissioning is to take a stewardship role with a focus on providing vision and direction for the health system, collecting and using intelligence, and exerting influence - through regulation and other means.

As PHNs reach their first birthday it's timely to take stock of how commissioning is developing both nationally and internationally. This webinar will incorporate research, policy and practice perspectives on the development and implementation of commissioning in Australia.

The panel session will focus on broad areas relating to the following:

- The current understanding of commissioning, and what it should achieve in PHN localities;

- The challenges and opportunities of the commissioning process in Australia;
- Concepts and elements of successful commissioning;
- How are PHN commissioners working with wider stakeholder groups?

Submit your questions for the panel

If you have questions that you would like addressed by the panel please send them in advance using the box on the registration form or send them to you can email them to Suzanne.robinson@curtin.edu.au.

Biographies

Helen Dickinson, Associate Professor of Public Governance at the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne

Helen's expertise is in public services, particularly in relation to topics such as governance, leadership, commissioning and priority setting and decision-making. Helen has published sixteen books and over fifty peer-reviewed journal articles on these topics and is also a frequent commentator within the mainstream media. She is co-editor of the Journal of Health, Organization and Management and Australian Journal of Public Administration. In 2015 Helen was made a Victorian Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia and she has worked with a range of different levels of government, community organisations and private organisations in Australia, UK, New Zealand and Europe on research and consultancy programmes.



Learne Durrington, Chief Executive WA Primary Health Alliance

With more than 25 years' experience in the management of government and not-for-profit organisations, Learne Durrington has a reputation for driving innovation within and across the health and social care sectors. Learne is passionate about achieving a connected and accessible health system that is patient and outcome focused.



As the CEO of WA Primary Health Alliance, Learne is leading the establishment of strategic alliances and partnerships across WA to support systemic change within the primary healthcare system. Learne leads with the principle that good health outcomes can only be achieved through the combined effort of all levels of government, clinical and social care services together with private and public organisations.

Starting her career as a social worker, Learne has a MBA and is an Associate Professor of Health Sciences at Curtin University, a Fellow of the Australian College of Health Services Management and GAICD.

Suzanne Robinson, Associate Professor and Theme Leader for Health Systems and Health Economics, Curtin University



Suzanne is Theme Leader for the Health Systems and Health Economics group at Curtin University and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham, UK. Suzanne has been involved in leading health systems and health economics projects that have had major impact on government reform initiatives. Suzanne also leads international research on decision making and priority setting in health, this work involves a number of aspects around population health planning and resource allocation.

Suzanne has worked with a number of Australian and UK organisations around commissioning and procurement of health and social care services. This work involves both research and educational programmes, including the development and delivery of the first UK Masters programme in commissioning health services, this was delivered by the University of Birmingham. She was recently awarded the Australasian College of Health Services Management award for innovation and excellence for her work in health systems research and capacity building.

Jason Trethowan, Chief Executive Officer, Western Victoria Primary Health Network Ltd.



Jason Trethowan was appointed CEO of Western Victoria Primary Health Network in June 2015, with the organisation established on 1 July 2015.

Previously, Jason was the CEO of Barwon Medicare Local and held this position from 2011. Jason led the organisation, collaborating closely with local community and health industry partners to strengthen the primary care system. Prior to

Barwon Medical Local Jason was the CEO of Geelong Practitioner's Association from 2007 – 2011 where he led the establishment of Australia's leading headspace site (Barwon) from May 2007 and led the advocacy for and establishment of a \$7M GP Super Clinic which opened in August 2010.

Jason's experience includes partnerships, business operations, health system innovation and corporate governance. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA), Graduate Certificate in Health Informatics and a Bachelor of Health Information Management. Jason is currently a Board Member of the G21 Geelong Region Alliance, a council member of the Australian Health and Hospital Association and also a Steering committee member of the Western Alliance Steering Committee.

The Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand (HSRAANZ)

The HSRAANZ was established in 2001 to facilitate communication among researchers and policymakers, to promote education and training and to build capacity in health services research in Australia and New Zealand. Individual and corporate memberships (centres and groupings of health services researchers) are available.

For more information about the HSRAANZ contact the Executive Officer, Sarah Green on 02 9514 4723 or sarah.green@chere.uts.edu.au or visit our website at <http://www.hsraanz.org>.