



Queensland  
Government

Metro North  
Hospital and Health Service

File number J15/14393

Ms Leanne Linard MP  
Member for Nudgee  
Chair, Health and Ambulance Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Ms Linard

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on the matters in the terms of reference of the Queensland Health Promotion Committee (QHPC) Inquiry.

The Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS) has a strong commitment to working closely with its key partners to improve continuity of quality patient centred care. A key feature of this approach is the delivery of safe high-quality care across the continuum including the building of partnerships between the preventive, community and acute sectors.

MNHHS provides targeted, local public health services aimed at preventing illness and protecting and promoting the health of the entire population or specified population subgroups. Public health activities include seeking to influence the determinants of health, albeit acknowledging that this extends across government and non-government jurisdictions and systems.

A critical role for a QHPC would therefore be to investigate and provide clarity to boundary issues affecting the whole of system implementation of strategies to address the determinants of health. The QHPC must recognise that these determinants lie in systems outside of health such as housing, education, transport and economic systems as examples. To recognise this and facilitate cross government collaboration, the QHPC should be independent of government departments, not government itself.

Potential roles for a QHPC could also include:

- providing state wide leadership
- formalising collaborative arrangements between stakeholders
- analysing relevant data to guide priorities and action
- facilitating increased funding for service delivery to be invested in priority areas
- evaluating programs to ensure ongoing strategies are based on evidence
- developing common language around health promotion and prevention

It is essential that progress in the area of health promotion and prevention be expedited, if not the burden of disease will continue to overwhelm acute service expenditure. A key issue in any progress will be commitment to an investment in a service delivery model and also consideration of a long-term funding model that acknowledges the workforce required and the time that it takes for outcomes to be realised.

MNHHS looks forward to continued engagement in this process to ensure that any QHPC works to build healthy public policy, reorient and support health services and improve the health of our community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make comment on the terms of reference of the Inquiry. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Mr John Piispanen, Director, Metro North Public Health Unit, on telephone 3624 1111, to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely



**Ken Whelan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Metro North Hospital and Health Service**

23/11/2015