2022

Submission to Mental Health Select Committee

PREPARED BY SPRINGFIELD CITY GROUP 04/02/2022



SUBMISSION

FROM	Springfield City Group
DATE	4 February 2022
INQUIRY	Mental Health Crisis pre and post COVID-19
RESPONSE	Queensland Government's Mental Health Select Committee Inquiry into opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders.
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Executive Summary

Mental health conditions have long been a source of decreased life expectancy and this has been exacerbated through the SARS-COV-2 pandemic. Mental health and wellbeing are both individual and societal health issues, and societal, economic, biological and environmental influences all play a role. There is an opportunity in recovering from coronavirus to prioritise mental health and wellbeing.

Typically, mental health planning and provision has fallen with clinical and acute healthcare organisations. Springfield City takes the view that mental health is not the sole responsibility of health planners, rather the responsibility of many, including communities and cities, to positively contribute to improving overall mental health. The health and wellbeing of communities is an essential component in urban planning. Designing for open green spaces help to facilitate a connected community. Importantly, community wellbeing and populationbased healthcare are seen as critical areas for mental health promotion and planning.

As the Wester-Corridor of South East Queensland continues to grow Springfield City should be considered as a location for essential mental health services, allowing accessible care close to home for many Queenslanders within an environment focussed on leveraging the benefits of wellness. Springfield City provides a central hub for all forms of human healthcare within Health City and through strong urban design promotes a well-community. These circumstances present a unique opportunity to not only address the "missing middle" but to also continue to promote positive health behaviours across populations.



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Mental Health Inquiry



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1. Introduction

Mental health is a significant contributor to morbidity and disability-adjusted life years. Economies across the world are starting to measure and understand the importance of mental health, wellbeing, happiness, overall life expectancy as well as economic prosperity. Since the onset of the SARS-COV-2 pandemic poor mental health has continued to demonstrate its impact on the wellness and prosperity of our communities, our health systems, and our economies.

According to the World Health Organisation, mental health is a state of wellbeing in which the individual realises their abilities, can cope with the stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to their community. This definition demonstrates the scope of mental health from the impact at an individual level, how external environmental factors may exacerbate existing conditions, the significance of how an individual interacts with their community as well as how an individual is able to contribute to their community and ultimately the economy.

Mental health and wellbeing should be the responsibility of a wide range of stakeholders across society, not solely the responsibility of health planners to improve overall mental health outcomes for populations across Australia. The health and wellbeing of communities is an essential element in world leading urban planning. Designing for green open spaces and ensuring a connected community helps to provide the opportunity to residents to live safe, healthy and well lives, while promoting behaviour that can encourage and facilitate exercise and social interaction (McCormack, Rock, Toohey, Hignell. 2010).

Springfield City Group provides the following submission to the Mental Health Select Committee in the inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders. Springfield City welcomes the chance to contribute and highlight the importance of *community wellbeing, population-based healthcare and the provision of mental healthcare services in Springfield City proactively addressing the need for services in a central location for the growing wider-region.*



2. Springfield City

Springfield City has had the opportunity to implement best practices in urban planning and as the community has continued to grow, so too, has the demand for healthcare services. Springfield City is master-planned around the pillars of health, education and technology, with innovation and 30% dedicated green space underpinning the city's liveability. Springfield City has been awarded and named the World's Best Master-Planned Community by the International Real Estate Federation.

The city is located in the heart of South-East Queensland's economic corridor with a population of approximately 50,000, growing at approximately 6% year on year, and with an average age of 29 (RPS, 2018). Geographically, the city is 30 minutes from Brisbane's central business district. The city has a projected residential population of 115,000 by 2036 and together with workers amounts to approximately 145,000 by 2036 (RPS, 2018). Refer to **Appendix A**, **Table I. Historical & Projected Residential Population**.

While many parts of Queensland are expected to experience an ageing population in the coming decades, Springfield City's population is expected to remain young. In fact, by 2036, there will be over 44,500 people aged 20-44 (the core working-age demographic) in Greater Springfield. Refer to *Appendix B, Table I. Historical & Projected Residential Population aged 20 to 44.*

Springfield City's wider catchment is currently home to over a quarter of a million people, and this is expected to almost double over the next 15 years, approaching half a million people by 2036. This represents a critical mass of population, and demonstrates the variety of communities across Queensland. Refer to *Appendix C, Table I. Historical & Projected Residential Population Greater Springfield and Wider Corridor*.

2.1 Springfield Health City

Springfield Health City is dedicated to all forms of human healthcare in one location. It is the designated central core of health and wellness in Springfield City. The aim is to create an environment where people can live active lives within a wellness-focused community. A healthy and vibrant lifestyle is the mantra of Springfield City and the investment into all open spaces including parks, bikeways, and sustainable development initiatives are elements design for a holistic and co-ordinated experience.

The blueprint of Springfield City is to promote wellness and prevention rather than illness and prescription. Springfield Health City is about creating a truly integrated healthcare and wellness experience. Currently, Springfield City is home to the Mater Hospital Springfield, ICON Cancer Care, Specialist Consulting Suites, Multiple Sclerosis Queensland, Quest Hotel, and Aveo Retirement Village. The Health City Precinct is continuing to grow the provision of health and wellbeing services and is an essential part of addressing the mental health needs of the community.

2.2 Mental Health Seminars

2.2.1 Mental Health and Mothers Symposium – March 2019 (See Appendix D)

• In March 2019, Springfield City Group coordinated a "Mental Health and Mothers Symposium" at Quest Hotel, Springfield Central.

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- The forum included opening addresses from Hon Milton Dick MP, Hon Shayne Neumann MP, and Charis Mullen MP. Representatives from West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, Mater Health Services, The Primary Health Network Darling Downs and West Moreton, University of Southern Queensland, The University of Queensland and TAFE Queensland South West.
- The diverse group of key stakeholders, decision makers and the community members came together for the half day symposium in an innovative session to help shift the narrative of mental health away from illness towards wellness. The status of healthcare services in the region, the specific needs of the community, and challenges for the region were outlined while the day also provided thoughts on the way forward.
- A working report was produced, key outcomes included (hyperlinks embedded):
 - Acute mental healthcare provision is available within <u>West Moreton Hospital and Health Service</u> through outreach services and youth mental health services.
 - Together in Mind perinatal and infant mental health program, as well as the Poppy Centre at the Gold Coast provide essential care, however at a distance outside of the immediate Springfield community.
 - Navigation of services is often difficult, thus services available closer to home help patients.
 - Mater's current core services are available at <u>Mater South Brisbane</u>.
 - The <u>PHN for Darling Downs West Moreton</u> provides an essential role in stepped care across a very large geographical footprint.
 - Additional, Alcohol and Drug services could be made available within Springfield City to help service the need for services in the wider region.
 - USQ are using innovative programs like <u>Headstrong</u> to help students engage online and allow for greater psychological flexibility.
 - <u>TAFE Queensland</u> highlighted the importance of destigmatising language in the mental health sector.
 - A presentation from <u>UQ's Professor Gerard Byrne</u> highlighted the need for putting the person in the centre of care, and that anxiety accounts for 26%, and depressive disorders account for 23.5% of all mental health.
- Outcome: To reconvene in 2020 and further discuss opportunities to improve mental health and wellbeing.

2.2.2 Mothers and Regional Health Delivery Workshop – October 2020 (See Appendix E)

- A Mothers and Regional Health Delivery workshop was held in October 2020 at Springfield Tower, and an action plan produced in 2021.
- The workshop was held in the context of Springfield City being a rapidly growing region, spurred along by new residential developments. This young and diverse population required additional services in healthcare.
- The first objective was to meet the healthcare needs of mothers in Springfield.
 - Aims included, creating a clear convenient destination and pathway for access to healthcare for mothers in Springfield Health City.



- The second objective was to identify how Springfield Health City can add value to the regional health delivery.
 - Aims included: Continue to partner with organisations, aspire to be a location of choice for the region.
- Outcome: To continue to share updates on services available, and ways in which to improve health and wellbeing across the community and wider region.



3. Community Wellbeing

Springfield City is a master-planned community built on the founding pillars of health, education and technology. Community wellbeing is at the centre of Springfield City with the components of walkability, accessible parks and a dedicated 30% of the community reserved for green open space. These deliberate design elements can help to facilitate resident's engagement in physical activity while also improving mental wellbeing and socialisation. Additionally, in promoting behaviours such as incidental walking and socialisation, green open spaces within communities can help to reduce instances of non-communicable diseases such as obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, some cancers (Gladwell, Brown, Wood, Sandercock, Barton. 2013).

3.1 Urban Planning for Healthier Communities

Supporting mental health and wellbeing in cities is important and an essential part of Springfield City's strategy. Research on urban planning and wellbeing (McCormack, Rock, Toohey, Hignell. 2010) is starting to demonstrate the importance of community liveability factors and their impact on the overall health both physical and mental. This includes:

- 1. Planning a built environment that encourages social interaction rather than social isolation.
- 2. Planning for social infrastructure including open green space, parks, and community centres.
- 3. Equitable access to services.
- 4. Walkability which has shown to improve mental health and physical activity.



4. Population-Based Healthcare

Springfield City is a young and growing community, as such the provision of health services should reflect the uniqueness of the population and the subsequent determinants of their health. Taking a broad populationbased approach that considers both the individual and population from a social, economic, cultural perspective may assist in planning and provision of appropriate mental health services. Geographically, Springfield City sits within large service locations: Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan and Toowoomba. Springfield City residents often are required to leave their community to access services.

It is critical that the local population and subsequent determinants of their health individually and at a population level are considered uniquely and in order to best address the needs of the community while also planning for the future. For Springfield City, this means:

- 1. Mental Health Disorders as a Burden of Age
- 2. The Missing Middle
- 3. Defence Mental Health

4.1 Mental Health Disorders as a Burden of Age

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018) the "Disability Adjusted Life Years" (DALY) for mental health disorders as a burden of age is the most prevalent between the ages of 19 and 49. Considering this, the average age of residents in Springfield City is 29, and the most common disorders are *anxiety*, *depressive*, and *alcohol use related disorders*, refer to *Appendix F, Table I. DALY*. Year on year, the number of births within Springfield City is increasing, and services to assist mothers from a perinatal perspective are important to plan ahead for; refer to *Appendix G, Table I. Births per year*.

Critically, planning to ensure population-based healthcare services are available "close to home" mean residents can readily access the care they need, per design. Availability and accessibility of Drug and Alcohol services for the region made available in Springfield City would help improve access to these critical services for adolescents and defence personnel. Given the young population of Springfield City there is likely to be a high need for pediatric psychiatric services as well as family-based interventions with Community Mental Health models of care. Springfield City has the unique potential to be a unique location for psychiatric research on population health interventions.

4.2 The Missing Middle

Springfield City's strategy for health is one that promotes wellness through best practices in urban and master planning. This conscious approach helps to create an environment where people are able to live active lives within a wellness focused community. In continued planning for growth and development the community's demographics, diversity, morbidities, risk factors, and general health literacy are considered. That is, Springfield City residents are young and aspirational, they consider their health incredibly important and are often proactive in seeking out services, information and support.

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The 'missing middle' is used to describe people whose needs are not met by current and easily accessible mental health services, often because these people are presenting neither severe nor mild. Through a "stepped-care" approach, focus is placed on linking patients with the most appropriate type of care and support. This approach focuses on the individual, while using the "wrap-around" method to also ensure that all needs of the patient are met, that is, physical, mental and social health needs.

"Stepped-care" services have the potential to help to alleviate demand for chronic care needs while supporting individuals early and in a flexible manner as the conditions could change, thus, stepping up or down. Refer to *Appendix H Table I. Primary Health Networks*. Additional stepped care services would help to engage with the community, including youth, LGBTQI people, culturally and linguistically diverse, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

4.3 Defence Mental Health

Unique population and place-based determinants of health must be considered in planning for future healthcare and mental health care services. Springfield City has a significant proportion of defence personnel and veterans. Geographically the city is situated close to RAAF Base Amberley and the ADF Greenbank Military Range. Positive mental health for all and early access to treatment and rehabilitation could be made available for defence personnel within Springfield City, in particular, services within Springfield Health City.



5. Recommendations

These recommendations address the importance of community health and wellbeing, urban planning in designing healthier communities, and matching healthcare services with populations to address the unique health determinants and requirements.

5.1 Prioritisation of Community Wellbeing

- It is recommended that community health and wellbeing be strongly promoted across mental healthcare organizations.
 - It is critical that mental health services better reflect community needs, from diversity, demographics, and the built environment.
 - Each community, city and region play an important role in the mental and physical health of their residents, through urban planning and design the urban landscape can facilitate and encourage positive health behaviors, such as participating in safe and deliberate exercise, incidental exercise, walkability, social interactions and connectedness with nature and woodlands.
- It is recommended that the scope of mental health planning be shared through communication and collaboration with diverse interest groups, rather than solely with clinical practitioners or health planners. Involving groups across the spectrum of care, promoting wellness and community connectedness helps to improve the livability of our communities.

5.2 Prioritisation of Matching Services with Populations

- It is recommended that in planning for the provision of mental healthcare services, greater emphasis be placed on matching services with the uniqueness of populations while considering social, environmental and psychosocial factors within the epidemiological paradigm.
- It is recommended that stepped-care facilities be planned for the region for anxiety, depression to address the missing middle.
- It is recommended that mental health services for Australian Defence Personnel and Veterans be considered for provision in Springfield City to allow for accessibility of services within a geographical hub.
- It is recommended that there is an increase in availability and accessibility of Drug and Alcohol services for the region. These services would help address mental health needs for adolescents and defence personnel within the Springfield region.
- It is recommended that pediatric psychiatric services, as well as family-based interventions with Community Mental Health models of care be planned for the Springfield region. Springfield City has a young population, and these services will help to meet the growing needs of the region.
- It is recommended that population health research be considered as Springfield City has the unique potential to be a unique location for psychiatric research on population health interventions.



6. Summary

Our mental health and general wellbeing are arguably our nation's biggest asset. With the significant growth in the population and the demand for health services, Queensland and Springfield City will require new and innovative ways to better manage and provide health care. At Springfield City, the community and their prosperity in the community is paramount. As per the Australian Government's Productivity Commission it is key to measure the impact of mental health on people's ability to participate in and prosper in the community and workplace. In ensuring that all entities from healthcare, to childcare, workplaces, communities and cities play a role, we can together see the minimisation of severe and moderate mental illness and ensure that wellbeing and liveable communities are prioritised.

The pandemic has prompted a renewed focus and understanding of the broad nature of mental health and wellbeing. It's in this context that prevention and treating mental health is a collective effort. As a masterplanner Springfield City has taken the opportunity to highlight the importance of liveability, planning for wellbeing, the importance of population-based healthcare.

People, and communities are at the heart of what Springfield City Group does. We believe that liveable communities are better able to promote health and wellbeing and are an essential component to addressing mental health. As the Wester Corridor of South East Queensland continues to grow, Springfield City must plan ahead in a proactive manner to be ahead of the increasing mental health curve. The growing region requires services and Springfield City should be considered as a location to provide this care. We welcome the opportunity to submit this proposal to the committee and discuss opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for the State.



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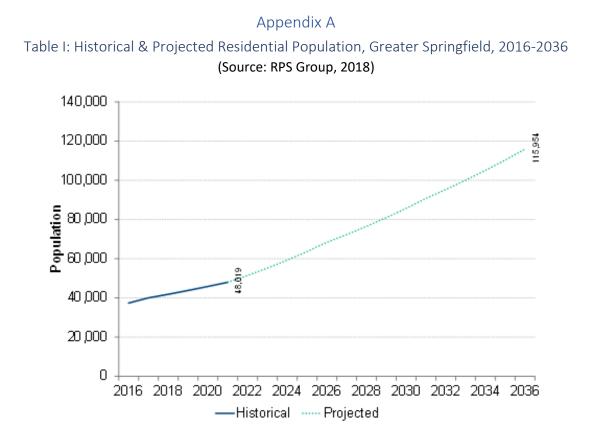
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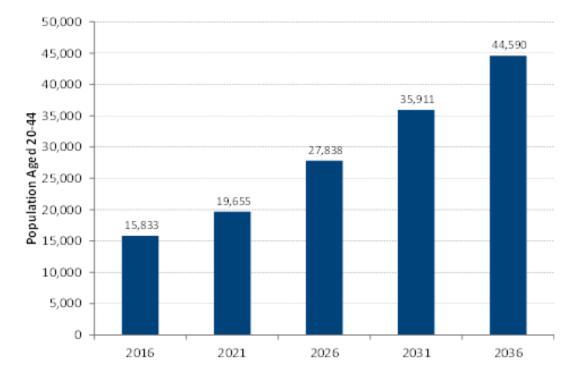


8. Appendix

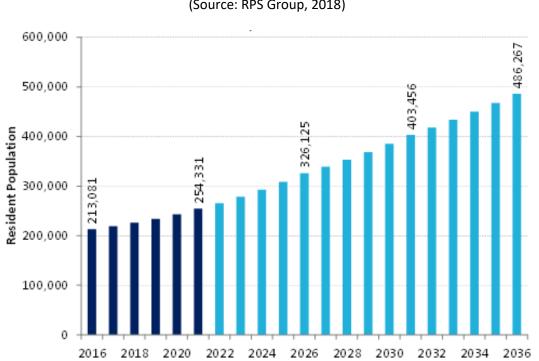




Appendix B Table I: Historical & Projected Residential Population, aged 20 to 44, Greater Springfield, 2016-2036 (Source: RPS Group, 2018)







Appendix C





Appendix D Table I. Mental Health and Mothers Symposium 2019 | Program

	-	tel, Springfield Central - 4 Wellness Way, Springf					
START	END	SESSION	SPEAKER				
:00	8:20	Arrival: Coffee, tea and croissants					
:20	8:30	Welcoming Address Raynuha Sinnathamby					
:30	8:40	Opening: Needs for the Region	Hon Milton Dick MP, Federal Member for Oxley Hon Shayne Neumann MP, Federal Member for Blair Charis Mullen, Member for Jordan				
:40	9:10	Future Requirements of Mental Health					
:40	8:50	West Moreton Hospital and Health Service	Michelle Giles, Director Operations, Community and Acute Services Topic: Public Mental Health Services at West Moreton Hospital and Health Services				
:50	9:00	Mater Health Services Dr Paul Pun, Director, Mater Health Psychiatry Services Topic: Community perinatal service and proposed streamlined inpatie maternal mental health pathway for Mater.					
9:00	9:10	PHN Darling Downs and West Moreton	Rajna Orozovic (Mental Health Lead) Topic: Overview and Role of the PHN in delivery of mental health services. Including Stepped Care services commissioned on the ground.				
0:00	10:00	Mapping Exercise – Specific Needs of the Community facilitated by Terry Kearney					
0:00	10:30	Morning Tea - Tea, Coffee					
10:30	11:00	Higher Education Overview – A higher education perspective of the challenges and the way forward					
10:30	10:40	University of Southern Queensland	Professor Lorelle Burton - Head of School (Psychology and Counselling) Topic: Headstrong: Helping Students to Successfully Transition into University and Manage Stress.				
.0:40	10:50	The University of Queensland	Professor Gerard Byrne – Head, Discipline of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Medicine Topic: Public Health Aspects of Common Mental Health Challenges in Younger Women				
0:50	11:00	TAFE Queensland South West	Ms Cassi Becker, Teacher (Mental Health, Counselling, Community Services) Topic: The importance of ensuring the language used in mental health is appropriate and how/when it is used correctly it can be empowering to those impacted by mental health.				
.1:00	12:00	Action Plan – Identification of resource opportunities to support plan for mental health – Facilitated by Terry Kearney					
2:00	12:10	Summary Jim Varghese					
		Lunch and refreshments					



Table II. Mental Health and Mothers Symposium 2019 | Attendees

Mental Health and Mothers Symposium Wednesday, 13 March 2019 8am – 1pm | Quest Hotel, Springfield Central - 4 Wellness Way, Springfield Central

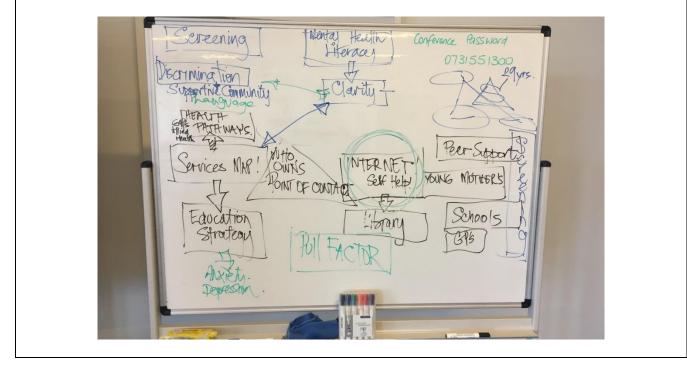
Attendees

- 1. Hon Milton Dick MP Member for Oxley
- 2. Hon Shayne Neumann Member for Blair
- 3. Charis Mullen MP Member for Jordan
- 4. Michelle Giles, Director Operations, Community and Acute Services West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
- 5. Dr Kellie Cullen, Social Worker, Child Health West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
- 6. Dr Paul Pun, Director, Mater Health Psychiatry Services
- 7. Maree Reynolds, Director of Nursing, Mater Mothers
- 8. Suzanne Hawksley, Director of Clinical Services, MPHS
- 9. Krystal Lording, MPHS Business and Quality Coordinator, MPHS
- 10. Rajna Orozovic Mental Health Lead PHN Darling Downs West Moreton
- 11. Professor Lorelle Burton Head of School (Psychology and Counselling), USQ
- 12. Professor Gerard Byrne Head, Discipline of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Medicine, UQ
- 13. Ms Cassi Becker, Teacher (Mental Health, Counselling, Community Services) TAFE QLD
- 14. Mr Ashley Crouch, Business Development Officer Health, Community and Life Sciences TAFE QLD
- 15. Ms Kristen Powles, Clinical Placement Administration Officer Health, Community and Life Sciences TAFE QLD
- 16. Raynuha Sinnathamby (SCG)
- 17. Terry Kearney (SCG)
- 18. Richard Royle (PwC)
- 19. Jim Varghese (SCG)
- 20. Meera Honan (SCG)
- 21. Sophia Arkinstall (SCG)



Table III. Mental Health and Mothers Symposium 2019 | Summary of Opportunities

- 1. Mental Health Diagnoses
 - a. The burden of disease for mental health tells us the top two diagnoses are anxiety disorders (26%) and depressive disorders (23.5%).
 - b. Disability Adjusted Life Years (AIHW, 2016) indicates that mental disorders disease burden is most apparent between the ages of 19 and 49 for both men and women.
- 2. Shifting Minds
 - a. We must talk about mental health more regularly as part of health promotion, leading to reduced stigma, shifting minds and a conversation focused on wellness, promotion and whole of person care.
 - b. A supportive community, where language is empowering and non-discriminatory.
- 3. Community Perspective
 - a. Young people within the community, their needs, their likelihood of mental health diagnosis.
- 4. Education Strategy
 - a. Education must play a role in mental health promotion. To bring services in lead. There is an opportunity to nourish mental wellness from a health promotion perspective.
 - b. Connectedness, accessibility of services, including service provided online (e.g., app, program, selfhelp, identification and understanding of symptoms).
- 5. Health Pathways and Services Map
 - a. To develop a services map from GP, allied health, mental health services, acute and non-acute to tertiary care.
 - b. We must understand what is currently being offered across the region and that being delivered in Springfield.
 - c. Noted most services are delivered in Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba, with a notable gap in Springfield.





Appendix E

Table I. Mothers and Regional Health Delivery 2020 Program

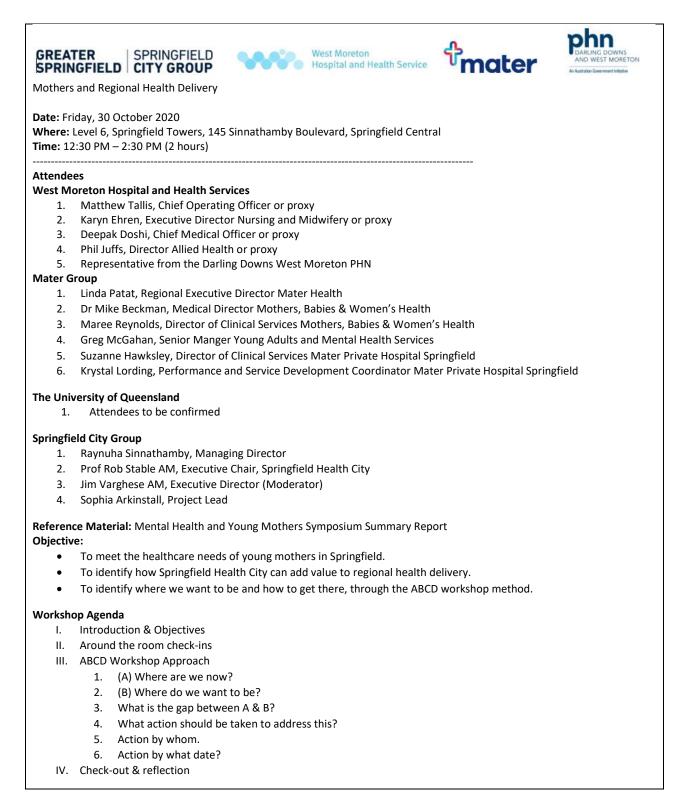




Table II. Mothers and Regional Health Delivery 2020 | Objective 1 Aims

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OBJEC	TIVE 1: MEETING THE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF MOTHERS IN SPRINGFIELD HEALTH CITY. Aims
1.	Create a clear convenient destination and pathway for access to healthcare for mothers in Springfield Health City.
2.	Ensure that every family is connected to a GP.
3.	Encourage genuine commitment and connection across all healthcare partners and community partners.
4.	Provide accurate information for health pathways for the community.
5.	Provision of healthcare in the home or closer to home.
6.	Detail the ecosystem of community e.g., wrap around support system / mapping.
7.	Monitor health outcomes to identify gaps and ensure equitable access particularly for vulnerable populations with view of continuous improvement.
8.	Adopt national guidelines and access to screen tools.
9.	Measure healthcare literacy and system literacy of targeted consumer group.
10.	Promote and map mother's wellness and community programs.
11.	Evaluating and leveraging capability of virtual and tele health.
12.	Commit to consumer co-design on the gaps of services including R&D.
13.	Ensuring funding models meet service needs.



Table III. Mothers and Regional Health Delivery 2020 | Objective 2 Aims









OBJECTIVE 2: IDENTIFY HOW SPRINGFIELD HEALTH CITY CAN ADD VALUE TO REGIONAL HEALTH DELIVERY.

Aims

1. Mater aspires to be a location of choice and meet the needs of the community.

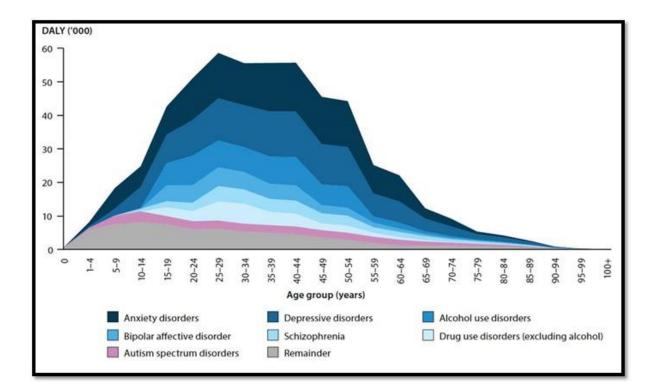
- 2. Continue to partner in a way that optimises what is delivered locally and a single touch point for patients.
- 3. Continue and accelerate diversity in population health planning.
- 4. Relentless review of service models for appropriately engaging with consumers, across the sector (primary and tertiary sector).
- 5. To deliver appropriate health services as near as appropriate to where people live.



Appendix F

Table I: DALY: Disability Adjusted Life Years. (Source: AIHW, 2016.)

Mental Disorders disease burden by age – most mental disorders occur between 19 and 49.





Appendix G

Table I: Births per year (Source: RPS, 2018)

RPS							
Age 0	2016 683	2017 725	2018 753	2019 781	2020 812	2021 843	2022 901



Appendix H

Table I: Primary Health Networks

(Darling Downs West Moreton PHN, 2022)

