Our Healthcare Future

From:	Pamela Lynam ██████████████████
Sent:	Monday, 18 January 2021 3:40 PM
To:	Our Healthcare Future
Subject:	Our healthcare future submission

Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Q1 "How can we shift our focus from hospital based care to care in community?"

More easily accessible GPs whom are able to deliver holistic care. Maybe a general 24/7 GP service would be more efficient. I believe we also need to change the mindset of people through education. I hear a lot of people who say why bother go to their GP as you can never get in and you can get healthcare for free through their emergency dept.

Q2 "what technology would be best to deliver improved patient outcomes?"

I'm a nurse at the LGH and I believe switching to more electronic based platforms instead of paper would streamline patient care. I believe the emergency dept has implemented this for a couple of years now however the rest of the hospital are waiting to see this delivered. This would easily reduce the time taken trying to decipher illegible handwriting at the least. Not to mention save a lot of trees.

Q3 "how do we support healthcare professionals to work to their full scope of practice"

By providing better support. Currently on my ward we have a lot of junior staff employed. A lot of these individuals state how at times they feel unsupported and unsafe. A lot of them have told me how they want to leave. This seems to be an everyday occurrence given our ward has more acutely unwell patients now compared to when I started 8 years ago. A clinical coach on every ward would be greatly beneficial and also providing the appropriate funding for staff. Currently there is a lot of sick leave leading to double shifts etc because there isn't the staff to fill those short falls.
Furthermore, junior doctors who undertake after hours shifts such as evenings and weekends are highly unsupported and understaffed. Often there will only be 1 doctor for all surgical wards were usually on a day shift there will be 10+. These do

Q4 " how do we improve integration?"

It would be nice if the public system was actually a 24 service. Allied health should easily be accessed 24/7, especially on public holidays etc. often we have patients waiting all weekend to discharge because allied Heath needs to clear them however they only work mon-Friday. This leads to that patient taking up a bed unnecessarily. Pharmacy and pathology are other services I feel need to have additional hours to improve patient outcomes. If these services were extended this would lead to less back log through the hospital and patients would be able to discharge on time. Finally rehabilitation services need to have a better system for accepting patients. Currently they're very selective with who they take which further back logs the surgical wards. Take a walk through the surgical ward and see how many non surgical patients there are, you'd be surprised. The surgical wards are currently flooded with medical, renal and cardiology patients because there's not enough medical beds. Maybe more funding into another medical/ rehabilitation facility is needed?

Q5 "how can we better utilise private hospital?"
Unsure about this one because we don't have a co-located hosp in Launceston. However a private ED dept in the north would help ease the burden on the LGH.

I really hope something changes soon and I've often heard colleagues stating that the strain of the job and the healthcare system is causing burn out and their mental health to suffer. Many of us have thought about leaving our current jobs to reduce stress.

Sent from my iPhone