

Our Healthcare Future Discussion Now

How can we shift the focus from hospital based care to better community care in the community?

Address staffing issues for the hospital and community.

Discharge Planners / Community facilitators based in the Emergency Department (ED). The Nursing position needs to be a Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC).

There needs to be well thought out processes established in the ED with short stay beds allocated for patients assessed by the medical staff that do not require hospital admission and can be cared for in the community. Medical staff to communicate with GP's regarding their patients.

The CNC refers patients to community nursing services. The CNC has the capability and resources to follow-up by visiting the patient for a short period or until community nursing services can commence. The CNC can also support and provide education for nursing home staff for patients returning.

The CNC may visit Community Nursing services and other community care services to inform and educate the services of the intended program based in the ED. A seminar can be organized to invite local community services and hospital allied health staff for information re: Short Stay ED beds and the community outreach program.

What technology would be best to help you to deliver improved patient outcomes?

Electronic Bedboard: This is a large computer screen, takes place of the "White Board" with the inclusion of Expected Date of Discharge (EDD). All wards should also have an Electronic Bedboard. Every patient is allocated an EDD. The medical, Nursing and Allied Health teams are responsible for meeting and changing the EDD on a daily basis. The Patient is the most important person and should know what their EDD is.

How do we support health professionals to work to the full scope of practice?

The governments should listen to what the health professionals are asking for to assist them to work to their full scope of practice. More and more "discussion papers" are wasting resources that can be better spent to help health professionals' work to their full scope of practice.

How can we improve integration across all parts of our health system?

All the heads of health departments should join together with their hospital and community colleagues. They can come together with the intention to find a way to improve our health system. Managers and experts in their professional fields should be included and consulted. These discussions therefore inform the government who can allocate necessary funds to progress plans developed from the discussions.

These plans can be Department of Health Projects situated in targeted hospitals with the experts at the head of the project. These would be people from the hospital and community to improve and prevent "Bed block". GP clinics based in the ED can work.

How can we make the best use of co-located private hospitals to avoid public hospital presentation?

- All privately insured patients are admitted to private hospitals.
- Shared expertise between the private and public sector.

Maybe this question should read: ***How can we make the best use of co-located private hospitals to assist public hospital "bed block".***