

Clinical & Practice Council Terms of Reference

Background

The Australian Government funds Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health services for their community, particularly for those at risk of poor health outcomes. They improve the coordination of health services and seek to improve access and quality of care. There are 31 PHNs in Australia and six in Victoria.

Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (EMPHN) achieves this goal by improving access to existing services, commissioning services to improve health outcomes and by supporting services and others to innovate and further improve local health care. We aim to improve the health of our community by ensuring people receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Members must sign the EMPHN Code of Conduct and other relevant documentation on appointment to the Council.

Key functions

Purpose

The purpose of the Clinical and Practice Council (CPC) is to provide an ongoing perspective of health professionals and advice to the EMPHN Board. This helps to ensure that decisions, investments, and innovations are patient centred, aligned with contemporary ways of working, cost-effective, locally relevant, and aligned to local care systems, experiences and expectations.

Role

The role of the EMPHN CPC is to:

- Provide direction and advice for EMPHN in relation to the integration of health professional views and experiences into all levels of strategy, operations, planning and policy development.
- Provide strategic advice to the EMPHN Board of Directors on priority areas and issues from a clinician, clinical team, and healthcare systems perspective.



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Key functions

Responsibilities

The Council is responsible for:


Helping EMPHN with the 'what':

- Providing advice to EMPHN on various clinical and healthcare issues at different stages of the EMPHN program lifecycle, including strategy, planning, design, commissioning, delivery and evaluation.
- Providing advice to various stakeholders within EMPHN, including the Board, CPC, and EMPHN staff.
- Providing a clinician and clinical team perspectives on matters referred to the CPC by the Community and Consumer Council (CCC), the Board or other EMPHN Committees.
- Facilitating two-way communication between clinicians, clinical teams, other health worker groups and EMPHN through the CPC members' networks.
- Championing EMPHN in relevant forums across the region and disseminating endorsed information to colleagues and healthcare groups.

Helping EMPHN with the 'how':

- Advise on clinician engagement and participation methods to inform EMPHN ways of working to enable effective and meaningful engagement.
- Advising on communication strategies to assist engagement with the clinical community.
- Helping EMPHN with the 'why':
- Providing a clinicians' or healthcare workers' interpretation of data and other information to inform processes such as the EMPHN health needs assessment.
- Advise on clinician perspectives on various health and other social issues to assist EMPHN staff to appreciate and design for the complexities of the healthcare system.

The Board's commitment to the CPC will encompass consultation, involvement and collaboration.

		INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 		
		CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL		To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
	PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

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Modus Operandi

Composition

The management team will put forward recommendations on membership for the CPC for approval by the Board. This will occur three times a year aligned to the Board meeting calendar in the first two years as EMPHN looks to grow the membership.

The Chair of the CPC will be a general practitioner who practices in the catchment.

CPC members, who are not Board members, are appointed for a term of three (3) years. At the end of this term, members may apply to serve a second consecutive term (total of 6 years) before being required to leave the Council for at least 12 months.

The term of appointment of CPC members who are EMPHN Board members will be as approved by the EMPHN Board.

CPC members are subject to and agree to be bound by the Code of Conduct and will be required to sign their agreement to this on appointment.

The Council shall comprise between 8 and 10 members, including:

- Clinician or healthcare worker/healthcare management professional members.
- No greater than 10 clinician, healthcare worker or healthcare management professional members are approved to appointment by the EMPHN Board of Directors following a recruitment process and recommendations from Management.

CPC membership as a whole should represent different facets of the EMPHN catchment. The health system matrix can be referenced to understand the current catchment makeup and be to identify gaps when recruiting new members.

CPC members contribute specialist knowledge and expertise by providing clinician and health system perspectives. Clinician or healthcare worker members will need to have the capacity to reflect on and present health system issues and demonstrate strategic thinking, rather than focusing on personal concerns or individual issues.

- **EMPHN Community and Consumer Council (CCC)**

A maximum of one (1) EMPHN CCC member as nominated by the CPC Chair. The role of the CCC member is to provide a conduit for information sharing between the EMPHN CPC and the CCC. The EMPHN CCC member may also be an EMPHN Board Director.

- **EMPHN Board Directors**

A minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) EMPHN Board Directors as approved by the EMPHN Board. The minutes of CPC meetings will be submitted to the EMPHN Board.

The CEO and relevant Executive will attend meetings of the CPC and act as a conduit between senior management, staff and the CPC. The Chief Executive Officer will provide information and clarification at meetings as required. The Chair of the Community and Consumer Council may attend meetings of the CPC on notice with the approval of the Chair of the CPC.

Others may also be invited to attend on a time-limited basis or to progress specific discussions or initiatives. Invitations to attend will be considered and approved by the Chair of the CPC with advice from the EMPHN CEO or executive.

The membership of the CPC will be reviewed regularly by the EMPHN Board to ensure it is reflective of the catchment priorities.

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Modus Operandi

Operations

The CPC meets formally every three months, with a minimum of four (4) meetings being held per annum. The Chairperson may call additional meetings, as required. Members will be advised of additional meetings no later than one week before the day of the meeting. The program of work for the CPC may also involve additional meetings or consultations by invitation.

Disclosure of interest

EMPHN Disclosure of Interest policy applies to this Council and any interests will be noted by the Chair at each meeting. A register of interests shall be maintained and Council members will declare potential conflicts at the start of each meeting as per the organisation's policy regarding Disclosure of Interest. The Council will determine how any potential conflict should be handled, including whether that member should remain present and have speaking rights or not for the item concerned.

Agenda and minutes

Meeting documentation, including the agenda, minutes of the previous meeting and other relevant documents, will be distributed to the Council members and attendees one week prior to the meeting.

An annual work plan and presentation program will be prepared outlining the key themes for each meeting and significant matters to be discussed.

The key actions emanating from all meetings will be minuted to reflect the work done by the CPC. The minutes will be circulated to members after a meeting, following approval by the CPC Chair and then confirmed by CPC members at the next CPC meeting. The minutes will then be submitted to the Board for noting at the Board meeting next following a CPC meeting (both confirmed and unconfirmed).

Secretariat functions will be provided by the EMPHN team.

Authority

The EMPHN CPC is an advisory committee to the EMPHN Board. The Council has no delegations.

Remuneration and expenses

Remuneration is provided in accordance with EMPHN's Engagement Rates Schedule. Members will be required to complete the necessary forms and paperwork as per the rates schedule.

EMPHN Board members who are members of the CPC will not be compensated by reference to this Schedule but as agreed by the Board.

Intellectual property and confidentiality

Matters discussed at CPC meetings must be treated as confidential. Meeting papers and other materials must only be used or disclosed for the purpose of the CPC function, unless as otherwise advised by the Chair CPC. Members can only disclose information for the purpose of advising the EMPHN Board.

Members are responsible for ensuring that the individual confidentiality and privacy of consumers and clinical and community members and their issues, as discussed within meetings, is maintained. Information relating to EMPHN services development and management should not be provided to the public unless agreed by the Chair and Executive management member. Matters discussed at CPC meetings may be of a confidential nature and must be treated as such by members. CPC members are not authorised to make media statements or announcements on behalf of the CPC or EMPHN in their capacity as members of the CPC.