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What's our purpose?

The Cardiology Clinical Network was established to bring together health professionals, health service organisations, consumers and carers to work collaboratively to achieve high quality care and improvements in cardiology services for the South Australian community. The Network will develop a shared vision for future services, identify areas of need and prioritise problems the network will work to solve. Over the 3 to 5 year lifespan of the Clinical Network, the purpose is to mature the group and make a strong connection with the Department of Health and Wellbeing and broader health sector so that the Network can transition into a Statewide Community of Practice.

Our Clinical Lead

Dr Phil Tideman is a senior consultant physician with 25 years' experience in cardiology, and 35 years' experience in the SA public health system. He strongly advocates for collaboration between health sectors, particularly between GPs/primary care and specialists, to reduce the overall burden of cardiovascular disease on all communities. He has an innovative track record in overcoming access issues for rural and remote communities and is noted for his work in developing, evaluating and sustaining the Integrated

Cardiovascular Clinical Network (iCCnet) which currently is part of the Rural Support Service in SA.

Our Steering Committee

On 10 February 2020, the steering committee for the South Australian Cardiology Clinical Network met for the first time. For the first year while we were becoming established, the steering committee met monthly, with support from the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health (CEIH). The Steering Committee is now moving to bi-monthly meetings so as we can focus on delivering our identified priorities.

We have 12 Steering Committee members from a range of disciplines in cardiology as well as carer/consumer representation. It is important to have such a breadth of experience and different views to ensure a range of perspectives is brought to Steering committee meetings while all working towards our shared vision.

The Cardiology Network has also selected and invited a number Expert Advisors. The Steering Committee will be able to draw upon these individuals with significant clinical expertise and experience in a specialist area that affects the issues in cardiovascular health of South Australians and delivery of cardiac services so that the best possible outcome can be achieved.

Vision and goals

We have established our vision, goals and terms of reference. The vision for the steering committee continually reminds us of the importance of equity and access and person-centred care:

Our vision is that all South Australians with or at risk of cardiovascular disease will efficiently access, according to need, the highest quality person-centred care and achieve the best outcomes to minimise the burden of disease for the individual, family and community as a whole.

The Steering Committee has also set four ambitious goals to work towards, which will require partnership and collaboration across the Local Health Networks, the Department of Health and Wellbeing, the NGO and private sectors, and with consumers:

- 1) *The Statewide Cardiology Clinical Network will work to ensure equitable access to comprehensive, evidence-based cardiovascular care across the life course and continuum of care, aimed at reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease for all population groups and communities in South Australia.*
- 2) *A multidisciplinary, highly skilled, inclusive workforce collaborating and cooperating across all Local Health Networks and health sectors will be focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for all South Australians, in a*

highly efficient, coordinated and sustainable system described by an updated South Australian Cardiac Services Plan.

- 3) The Statewide Cardiology Clinical Network will draw upon comprehensive, high quality, population health needs data, and real-time performance and outcome data to assist expert consensus service planning and drive continuous quality improvement. Innovation in and implementation of new or improved models of patient-focused care will seek to integrate appropriate new technologies.*
- 4) The workforce will be connected, engaged and responsive to patient needs in the communities they serve and will deliver high quality care, teaching and research at both the national and international level.*

What we've been up to

An early achievement for the Steering Committee was the endorsement in May 2020 of recommendations relating to the transition to full range high sensitivity Troponin T laboratory reporting for SA Health. This work involved development of a reporting template with SA Pathology that enables utilisation of the full range of values down to limit of detection but emphasises the need to interpret serial results and change values in the context of the clinical presentation. Once endorsed by the Steering Committee the new reporting framework was communicated to Local Health Networks with the expectation that local chest pain/ACS clinical pathways would be updated to accommodate rapid rule-out. Monitoring the impact of full range hsTroponin reporting on clinical practice is ongoing.

Also during the first part of 2020, the Steering committee discussed the work done and lessons learnt from the previous iteration of the Statewide Cardiology Clinical Network 2007-15. This work helped to identify unfinished business, new priorities and how the new clinical network could be most effective.

We have spent considerable time setting up craft-specific sub-committees to provide expert advice to the Steering Committee on the important issues impacting upon access, equity, efficiency and clinical, population and health system outcomes in their areas of expertise.

The 8 sub-committees include: Adult Congenital Heart Disease, Cardiac Nursing, Cardiac Structural and Interventional, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Heart Failure, Electro-Physiology and Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices (EP & CIED), Cardiac Rehabilitation and Cardiology Data and Information. There was consideration to form a Cardiac Genetics sub-committee however it was decided that this best fits with the newly established [Statewide Clinical Genomics Network](#). Cardiac Genetics and Paediatric Cardiology will provide advice and reporting as needed to the Steering Committee.

While the response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020 impacted the speed of our progress, the Steering Committee has now identified the priority projects for 2021-2. These include a current state analysis of regional and outreach cardiac services including non-invasive cardiac investigations, development of an updated Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) Model of Care, and overseeing the clinical governance of the MitraClip™ trial. A major collaborative data project with Health Translation SA analysing trends in cardiac electronic device implantation is also underway.

Further information will be available on these projects in future newsletters as they progress.

Contact us

For information about the Statewide Cardiology Clinical Network or to join our mailing list, please visit our [website](#) or send us an email at CEIHCardiology@sa.gov.au

For further information about other Clinical Networks and other things happening within the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health, visit the [CEIH website](#).



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