

NSW Draft Rural Health Plan

SUBMISSION

June 2014



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Centroc's Mission is to be recognised as the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW whilst providing a forum for facilitating regional co-operation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources; effectively nurturing sustainable investment and infrastructure development.

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9 June 2014

Rural Health
Health System Planning and Investment Branch
NSW Ministry of Health
Locked Bag 961
North Sydney NSW 2059

Dear Minister Skinner,

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the NSW Draft Rural Health Plan. Health is an extremely high priority for the Centroc Board. The Board recognises that the funding and service delivery model for health is complex involving all levels of government and the private sector. Further, social determinants of health are a key consideration in this region.

For more advice on Centroc programming and priorities, please go to our website
<http://www.centroc.com.au/centrocs-advocacy-priorities/health/>

The Centroc Board gave consideration to the NSW Draft Rural Health Plan at its Board meeting 29 May 2014 and provides the following feedback:

- Health services in the region are generally improving and if implemented effectively, the Rural Health Plan will build on these;
- The advice regarding both Base Hospitals and remote health care is extensive, but members were keen to see more in regard to District Hospitals for communities the size of for example, Cowra;
- Recognition of the social determinants of health is welcomed and the region is keen to work with the State of place based models that capitalise on the work being undertaken by Local Government in Integrated Planning and Reporting;
- The region is keen work with the State Government and offer its support with regard to impacts of the Federal Budget in health services in this region;
- The Board is keen to work with State Government on facilitating health issues in this region that are Federal responsibilities, for example aged patient transport;
- In regards to initiatives in E Health the region makes to comments:
 - Scalable, future-proof broadband is yet to be rolled out to any extent in this region and satellite capacity is seen as one solution;
 - There is much scope for root and branch improvements to EHealth including embedment of ERecord management. Further, this region believes that use of Skype type services for follow-up offers patients a better alternative to having to travel into major centres. The challenge will be engaging both the public and private sectors.

The region notes that the Plan calls for Local Government to work with health in some of its strategies. This region has undertaken some thinking and activity in this area and is keen to build on this with the NSW Government.

For further advice in regards to this submission please contact the Executive Officer Ms Jennifer Bennett on 0428 690 935 or jenny.bennett@centroc.com.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Keith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Cr Ken Keith
Chair
Central NSW Councils (Centroc)