

Local Health Network Accreditation Report



Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network Whyalla Hospital and Health Service

Accreditation Report Details

Date of Visit:	4 September, 2019
Team Leader:	Dr Solomon Yu
Team Members:	Dr Matt Scholar Dr James Turnbull
SA MET Ex-Officio:	Mrs Vicki Foote Ms Colleen Cryans
Date approved by SA MET Health Advisory Council:	27 November 2019
Expiry Date:	30 November 2023

Accreditation Decision

4 years with 9 provisos

Executive Summary

The South Australian Government recently restructured the governance of SA Health, and established ten Local Health Networks (LHNs). Due to this restructure, Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network (FUNLHN) have yet to develop a strategic plan for Trainee Medical Officer (TMO) medical education and training. The recently established FUNLHN Governing Board is now fully operational and responsible for oversight of local service delivery to the community, including Whyalla Hospital Health Service (WHHS).

Funding for medical workforce across regional SA Health networks was described as fragile in comparison to their metropolitan counterparts. WHHS have actively engaged in a collaborative approach with the Commonwealth Government and Adelaide Rural Clinical School (ARCS), towards supporting the rural medical workforce, including medical education and training and indicated funding is expected to stabilise.

The WHHS MEU is supported by a part-time Director of Clinical Training (DCT) and Medical Education Officer (MEO), however does not have any administrative support onsite at the hospital.

WHHS have established a Medical Education Committee (MEC), in response to the needs of clinical supervisors. The MEC focuses on the continuous quality improvement of terms and is represented by a broad range of medical education and training stakeholders, including LHN representatives, all term supervisors, the MEU and a TMO.

WHHS continue to build on strong collaborative relationships by working with a broad range of regional and rural medical education and training providers, stakeholders and partnering with regional intern training hospitals to ensure the quality of medical education and training. WHHS MEU has been able to provide interns the opportunity and support enabling them to participate in research projects.

Interns indicated clinical exposure was adequate, varied and provided a valuable experience across the five WHHS terms. However, it was unclear whether the General Practice/Emergency term at Bunyarra Medical Clinic provided enough exposure to emergency medicine to be considered a core emergency medicine term. TMOs facilitating the consenting of patients who are to undergo major surgery was a concern, as was the model of care of post-surgical patients of visiting surgeons and the workload in the General Medicine term.

Facility wide orientation to WHHS was considered comprehensive, however some concerns were identified with the orientation to the General Surgery/Orthopaedic term. All interns undergo mid-term and end-of-term assessments, utilising the OTIS learning management system.

Overall interns indicated that they were well supervised and felt comfortable with the supervision provided, although some concerns were raised in regards to the supervision provided on the General Practice/Emergency term at Bunyarra Medical Clinic. WHHS term supervisors are committed to the supervision of TMOs and demonstrated an excellent understanding of the requirements involved in supervision. Interns confirmed they receive regular formal and informal feedback from most supervisors and are able to provide feedback on all aspects of their education and training.

TMO welfare is a high priority of the WHHS MEU who works tirelessly in providing interns with a supportive and tailored education and training experience. They have an "open door" policy allowing interns to contact them at any time. Having small numbers and located in a small town allows the MEU to achieve closer relationships and provide regular personalised debrief sessions to interns.