

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
LAID ON THE TABLE

13 Nov 2014

# Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council

Annual Report

2013–14



Government of South Australia  
Port Pirie Health Service Advisory  
Council

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**Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council  
Annual Report 2013–14**

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ISBN 978-1-74243-693-7 (print)  
ISSN 1837-4212

This annual report was prepared by the  
Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council

Copies of the annual report can be obtained by contacting the Port Pirie Health Service (see contact details below) or via Health Advisory Council website at [www.countryhealthsa.sa.gov.au/HealthAdvisoryCouncils.aspx](http://www.countryhealthsa.sa.gov.au/HealthAdvisoryCouncils.aspx)

**Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council**

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Hon. Jack Snelling M.P.  
Minister for Health

Dear Minister

In accordance with the *Public Sector Act 2009* and the *Health Care Act 2008*, I am pleased to submit the annual report of Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council for presentation to Parliament.

This report provides an accurate account of the operations of the Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council for the financial year ending 30 June 2014, in accordance with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular on Annual Reporting Requirements.

Yours sincerely



Barry Hay  
**Presiding Member**  
Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council

29 August 2014

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## Report of the Presiding Member

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2013-14 Annual Report for the Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council.

The Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 5 November 2013. It was pleasing to see Mr Tom Neilson and Mr Syd Farrell put up their hands to be part of the Advisory Council and their expertise and valued input has been appreciated over the last 12 months.

The highlight of the year would have been the completion of the GP Plus facility in November last year and after five years of much planning the community of Port Pirie was able to finally walk through a first class facility.

Congratulations to all involved in this project.

The past 12 months have gone by very quickly and given the recent Federal and State budgets, I am sure there will be some challenging times ahead for the Port Pirie community, however the members of the Advisory Council will continue to work with Country Health SA Local Health Network to improve access to health services for all country people.

In July 2013 Ms Maree Geraghty was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer for Country Health SA Local Health Network and over the last 12 months I thank her for improving the flow of information to our group and placing greater value on advice being provided by Health Advisory Councils in general.

To enable the completion of the Hammill House Aged Care upgrade several years ago it was necessary to relocate Palliative Care temporarily back into the Ward environment until a more suitable area could be identified. Several months ago the Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Michael Eades provided the Advisory Council with some concept plans outlining a possible redevelopment of the old Physiotherapy area into a new Palliative Care suite. The proposal with costs of around \$500 000 has been endorsed by the Advisory Council and we have agreed to put \$250 000 of the communities funds towards the project and it was pleasing to see our local member of Parliament, the Hon Geoff Brock MP gained the Premier's commitment to this project following the recent State election. We now look forward to this progressing over the next year.

The past year also saw the final fundraising activities of the Melisa Ward Memorial Fund and I would like to thank Andrew, his family and many helpers for the work and effort they have put in over the last few years raising \$86 433.72 by the end of June 2014 in memory of Melisa.

As always, our most important asset are our staff whichever area they work in. We thank them for their dedicated service to our community and wish to acknowledge the professional service they deliver on a day-to-day basis to our community.

To our many volunteers who support our health service with their time and expertise, whether it be delivering papers, driving the buses or assisting with our many other support programs, a big thank you to you all.

I also thank our Regional Director, Roger Kirchner and all other senior staff for their commitment to both local and regional initiatives which means the Port Pirie community continues to access a first class health service.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all members of the Health Advisory Council for their ongoing commitment to move forward and embrace change, which will ensure we will continue to improve.

Barry Hay  
**Presiding Member**

## Role & Function

The Health Advisory Council was established by the Minister for Health and Ageing to undertake an advocacy role on behalf of the community and to provide advice in relation to health matters, amongst other functions.

In accordance with the requirements of section 17 of the *Health Care Act 2008*, the Health Advisory Council is governed by a constitution determined by the Minister.

Full details of the functions of the Health Advisory Council are contained in the Rules and are précised as follows:

The functions of the Health Advisory Council are to:

- > Act as an advocate to promote the health interests of the community.
- > Provide advice to the Minister and the Chief Executive about any aspect of the provision of health services in the Local Area by Country Health SA Local Health Network Inc from the perspective of consumers of those services and in addition, carers and volunteers who interface with the services; or any aspect of the provision to the community of health services outside of the local area, from the perspective of consumers of those services and in addition, carers and volunteers who interface with the services.
- > Provide advice to the Minister and the Chief Executive about a range of issues, including:
  - health issues, goals, priorities, plans, and other strategic initiatives of local health service sites
  - the development or implementation of systems or mechanisms designed to support the delivery of health or services at local health service sites
  - the development and management of health services and on the resources made available for these service.
- > Provide advice to the Minister about any matter referred to it by the Minister or Chief Executive.
- > Assist the Minister and Chief Executive in the provision of information to, and to consult broadly with, the consumers of health services provided by Country Health SA Local Health Network Inc in the local area.
- > Encourage community participation in programs associated with supporting the provision of health services by Country Health SA Local Health Network Inc and promote the importance of carers and volunteers.
- > Consult with other bodies that are interested in the provision of health services within the community.
- > Participate in consultation or assessment processes associated with selection of senior staff at local health services.
- > Provide assistance with fundraising activities.

Members of the Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council during the year were:

FARRELL, Syd (from 05.11.2013)

FIDGE, Greg (until 24.02.2014)

FUCHS, Sandra

HAY, Barry

HORTIN, Shirley

NEILSON, Tom (from 05.11.2013)

PAPARELLA, Joseph

STERNAL, Elizabeth

## Reports

### ***Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993***

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* provides an opportunity for public interest to be disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency.

There have been nil reports for the 2013-14 year.

## Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1991* gives members of the public a legally enforceable right to access information held by the South Australian Government, subject to certain restrictions.

The Health Advisory Council website provides an overview of the advisory council's roles and functions: (<http://www.countryhealthsa.sa.gov.au/HealthAdvisoryCouncils.aspx>)

### **Functions of Health Advisory Council affecting the public**

The Health Advisory Council was established by the Minister to undertake an advocacy role on behalf of the community and provide advice in relation to health matters, amongst other functions.

Arrangements and procedures for seeking access to records and policies.

Applications for access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* legislation including purchase costs or amendment of records should be addressed to:

#### **Mr Barry Hay**

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