



Frequently Asked Questions

Allied health professional's clinical placements

What is Transforming Health?

Transforming Health is about ensuring South Australians have the best quality healthcare system into the future. We need to change the way we manage our system due to changing health needs in our hospitals, complex health conditions, an ageing population and advances in technology. This process has involved input from across the health professions, including allied health professionals, to re-design the system. The overarching aim is a more streamlined healthcare system that provides better service for patients.

Who oversees the changes occurring under Transforming Health?

The Transforming Health Ministerial Clinical Advisory Group (MCAG) provides clinical leadership and guides the way Transforming Health is implemented. The Group will plan and recommend clinical models of care and guidelines through a clinician-led, quality focused process, for implementation at each hospital.

The MCAG is chaired by the Transforming Health Clinical Ambassador, Professor Dorothy Keefe and includes members from across the State in all aspects of healthcare, including doctors, nurses and midwives and scientific and allied health professionals.

The Transforming Health Education Experts Group reports to the MCAG on issues relating to the impact of Transforming Health on the education and training of our future health workforce.

Who are the allied and scientific health professionals in SA Health?

The allied and scientific health professions collectively provide a broad range of clinical diagnostic, technical and therapeutic services across the South Australian healthcare system, and as such are part of the changes under Transforming Health. Allied and scientific health professionals are identified by their application of complex skills and knowledge to build, rebuild and maintain optimal physical, sensory, cognitive and psychosocial function of patients, all the while keeping the patient at the centre of their care.

In SA Health, the group of allied and scientific health professionals includes:

- > Allied Health Assistants
- > Art Therapists
- > Audiologists
- > Dental Therapists and Hygienists
- > Dietitians
- > Epidemiologists
- > Exercise Physiologists
- > Genetic Counsellors
- > Medical and Grant Funded Scientists
- > Medical Physicists
- > Medical Radiation Practitioners
- > Music Therapists
- > Nutritionists
- > Occupational Therapists
- > Optometrists
- > Orthoptists
- > Orthotists and Prosthetists
- > Perfusionists
- > Pharmacists
- > Physiotherapists
- > Podiatrists
- > Psychologists
- > Social Workers
- > Sonographers
- > Speech Pathologists



What do the changes mean for allied health students?

Transforming Health has proposed some changes to the allied and scientific health workforce. These changes include extending rostered hours. This may mean some future placements may occur on weekends and after hours to meet the service requirements. There will also be infrastructure enhancements to many sites, such as in the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Clinical placements are an important element of your preparation for entry to your profession. Professional entry needs to be aligned with the needs of patients, the community and health services. SA Health continues to work with education providers to discuss identified changes to workforce practices and implement them into the curriculum.

What is the timeline for implementation?

Implementation of the main changes of Transforming Health will take effect between 2015 and 2019. Beyond this, Transforming Health will be a journey of continuous improvement applied across the healthcare system. The first priority is to improve patient access and flow, particularly to reduce the amount of time patients need to stay in hospital. As this occurs, changes within service delivery will continue to ensure clinical practice is still aligned with best evidence-based practice.

Further updates on the progress of these changes can be found at transforminghealth.sa.gov.au.

Will Transforming Health impact job prospects?

Allied and scientific health professionals contribute to shorter lengths of stay in hospital, better home based care and patient-focused care across complex health care systems. This means there will be significant new opportunities for allied and scientific health professionals in the future across healthcare in South Australia. Within SA Health, these opportunities will mean that staff will work across hospitals, services and/or Local Health Networks (LHNs) in a flexible manner. Updates about these opportunities can be found at transforminghealth.sa.gov.au as the changes begin to roll out as part of Transforming Health.

Who manages the SA Health clinical placement positions?

LHNs are responsible for managing allied and scientific health placements across the public hospitals in South Australia. These are arranged between the LHN and the education provider. Some allied health professions are commencing the use of an online clinical placement booking system to improve the management of clinical placements from 2017.

Will there still be the same number of clinical placements occurring under Transforming Health?

The number of placements will be maintained as much as possible during the changes. Some placements may need to be flexible and there will be different learning outcomes and opportunities for innovative placements, for example interprofessional placements, use of new IT systems and once in a lifetime opportunities to learn about organisational change.

What are some of the bigger site changes?

South

- > Improvements and upgrading of facilities at Flinders Medical Centre, including a new rehabilitation centre, with 55 rehabilitation beds, new gyms and a hydrotherapy pool and a dedicated orthogeriatric service.
- > Services from the Repatriation General Hospital will be integrated into other hospitals: a new \$15 million Veteran' Mental Health Precinct, named The Jamie Larcombe Centre will be established at Glenside Health Service Campus and Veterans' services will be integrated into metropolitan hospitals.

Central

- > The Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be upgraded to become a centre for rehabilitation, with new allied health facilities, a hydrotherapy pool and allied health professionals available seven days a week. The hospital will also become a dedicated, specialist centre for multi-day surgery, and will increase its provision of elective day surgery procedures.
- > The new Royal Adelaide Hospital will become one of the biggest and most technologically advanced hospitals in Australia, with a major complex multi-trauma Emergency Department and a 24/7 stroke service, with staff and support available on-site around the clock.

North

- > A new purpose-built rehabilitation centre at Modbury Hospital that includes a gym, hydrotherapy pool and therapy spaces.
- > Modbury Hospital will become the elective surgery centre for the north and north eastern area, carrying out around 1,800 more elective procedures including scopes a year, giving north and north-eastern residents faster access to elective surgery, with fewer delays. Emergency and complex surgery will be focused to Lyell McEwin Hospital, including a comprehensive 24/7 orthopaedic trauma surgery service providing faster access to orthopaedic surgery.

Country SA

- > Transforming Health will see ambulatory rehabilitation services expanded to other locations with Country Health SA also leading the development and state wide implementation of tele-health based models of rehabilitation.
- > Multi-disciplinary student placements will continue to be offered with the opportunity to work across the lifespan, from paediatric to aged care across hospitals, the community and within aged care facilities.

Who can I contact with further questions?

- > The Transforming Health website at transforminghealth.sa.gov.au contains further information and is updated regularly.
- > If you wish to find additional information about your profession, please contact the academic staff in your allied or scientific health profession at your university/institution and they will be able to direct your enquiry back to SA Health.
- > If you are currently on placement, contact your placement supervisor for further information.
- > For further information on how Transforming Health will affect placements and future opportunities, email or call the Better Placed Clinical Placements Team:
 - o BetterPlaced@sa.gov.au
 - o (08) 8226 6010

For more information

Email: Health.TransformingHealth@sa.gov.au

Visit: transforminghealth.sa.gov.au



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