Evaluation of the Primary Health Networks Programme

Evaluation update

23 March 2016
Agenda

1. Purpose and research questions
2. Progress to date
3. Programme logic
4. Overview of the After Hours deep dive review
5. Emerging themes from the baseline PHN key informant interviews
6. Discussion
1. Purpose and research questions
The evaluation is being conducted over a two and a half year period from July 2015 to December 2017

The purpose of the Evaluation is to:

► assess the extent of PHN Programme objectives being achieved
► contribute to ongoing improvement of the PHN Programme

Note, the evaluation…

► is distinct from performance measurement via the Performance Framework
► will not assess individual PHNs, rather will look at achievement of outputs and outcomes as a whole to assess overall PHN Programme effectiveness
Five primary questions are driving the evaluation which are underpinned by a number of research questions

1. To what extent are PHNs `fit for purpose`?

2. Has the PHN programme increased efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes?

3. Has the PHN programme improved the coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time?

4. How are the information, advice and support needs of PHNs identified in relation to the national support function and how effective has the Department been in providing this support?

5. Are local and organisational performance indicators for the PHN Programme appropriate?
2. Progress to date
Baseline data collection commenced late February 2016, 14 PHNs have been consulted with so far…

### Snapshot:
- Programme Logic, Evaluation Framework and Questions - Complete
- Data Collection Planning - In progress
  - Survey planning - In progress
  - Document review planning - In progress
  - Case study planning - In progress
- Key Informant Interview planning - Complete
- Data collection - In progress

### Key informant interviews:

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<th>45%</th>
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<td>14 CEOs</td>
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<td>13 Board Chairs</td>
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<td>24 Executives</td>
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- 45% of PHNs have been interviewed

### Timeline
- 30%
  - Start: 22 Feb 2016
  - Finish: May 2016
- 100%

### Key informant interviews to be completed:
- 17 PHNs
  - Common wealth Dept. of Health
  - State & Territory Health Departments
- RACGP
- AMA
- NACCHO
- CHF Australia

### Data collection findings:
- Although the journey for each PHN is very different, some **common themes** are emerging
3. Programme logic
Two levels of programme logic have been developed; they are aligned to the strategic objectives of the Programme and are guiding implementation as well as the evaluation.

**National context**

**Inputs** → **Activities** → **Outputs** → **Outcomes**

**Local context**

**National PHN Programme level logic**

**PHN level activity logics**

- Addressing health needs and service gaps
- Facilitating service and patient level integration
- Supporting general practice

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**National PHN Programme level logic**

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**National context**

- **Inputs**
- **Activities**
- **Outputs**
- **Outcomes**

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**Local context**

- **Inputs**
- **Activities**
- **Outputs**
- **Outcomes**

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**National PHN Programme level logic**

- **Inputs**
- **Activities**
- **Outputs**
- **Outcomes**

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**PHN level activity logics**

- **Addressing health needs and service gaps**
- **Facilitating service and patient level integration**
- **Supporting general practice**

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4. Overview of the After Hours deep dive review
The After Hours deep dive will be based on a specific evaluation framework and programme logic

The purpose of the deep dive review is to assess the extent to which:

- PHNs were able to adequately identify and implement processes to fill gaps in after hours service provision
- Needs assessments and annual plans would be likely to achieve expected outcomes and meet programme objectives
- We will leverage the national evaluation of the PHN programme wherever possible

Timeline

- Start: 21 Mar 2016
- Key informant interviews
- Document review
- Survey
- Case Studies
- Data Analysis
- Report: October 2016

Timeline

Timeline

Timeline

Timeline
5. Emerging themes from the baseline PHN key informant interviews
Emerging themes: PHN functions and activities

**Context**
- Wide degree of variation (history, geography, relationships)
- Tight timeframes and uncertain funding
- “Pragmatic adaptation” re prioritisation
- Still in establishment phase – structure/use is varied
- Board, CC and CAC – broadened to reflect increased scope
- Renamed CAC to “Council” instead of “Committee”
- Lean organisations which can fulfil immediate functions
- Future capability/capacity development influenced by pace of change, resource availability and organisational maturity

**Governance**

**Capability and capacity**

**Effective partnerships**

**Commissioning**

- Relationship/partnership with LHNs/LHDs/HHS key for joint planning and joint commissioning in the longer term
- Resource intensive but essential – some legacy issues
- “Pragmatic” and “conservative” approach due to tight timeframes and limited information &/or funding
- Overall PHNs’ commissioning maturity is ‘Developing’
The National Support Function is maturing into its role. Five key features were identified for an effective support function:

- **Engage**
  - Positive change in the DoH’s attitude, openness & willingness to work in partnership
  - Working groups going well

- **Inform**
  - Clarify role of DoH in terms of: funder; provider of information; & support
  - Timeliness major issue

- **Act**
  - Bureaucratic processes hinders proactive/ responsive support
  - Need clarity re PHN outcomes & expectations

- **Tailor**
  - State-based support networks provide strategic & operational support
  - Generic support not useful

- **Sustain**
  - Assistance with funding state-based networks
  - Flexibility to use funds to best meet local need
6. Discussion
Questions, comments and thoughts……
For more information

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