



Northern Territory Government

Department of Health and Community Services

HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1 Overview and establishment

- 1.1 As part of its Framework for Health and Community Services 2004-2009, *Building Healthier Communities*, the Northern Territory Government is committed to ensuring all Territorians enjoy long and healthy lives, and that the Northern Territory has a health system that is responsive, accountable and effective.
- 1.2 To support this commitment, a Health Advisory Council will advise the Minister for Health on strategies to advance these objectives and on other matters relating to the health of individuals, families and communities.

2. Terms of Reference

The Health Advisory Council will:

- 2.1 Provide evidence-based and impartial advice and perspectives to the Minister for Health on:
 - a) the risks, strengths and contemporary issues that affect the health of Territorians;
 - b) the effectiveness and appropriateness of policy and strategies and make suggestions for improvements as necessary; and
 - c) specific issues as requested by the Minister for Health or the Chief Executive Officer, Department of Health and Community Services.
- 2.2 Contribute to and draw from the deliberations of other Government advisory bodies as required.
- 2.3 Provide a mechanism for the community and consumers to work with service providers, health professionals and Government to progress an accessible, equitable, good quality and integrated health system.
- 2.4 Consider issues across a range of community, regional and sectoral interests.

3. Key responsibilities

- 3.1 Monitor the health status of Territorians.
- 3.2 Monitor and comment on the impact of public policy on individuals, families and communities.

- 3.3 Provide advice about consumer and community views and priorities and strategies to promote informed consumer and community participation.
- 3.4 Liaise with Government and non-government organisations as appropriate.
- 3.5 Undertake activities as agreed with the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer, Department of Health and Community Services.

4. Processes

In its processes, the Council, working with the Department of Health and Community Services, will:

- 4.1 Stimulate community interest, debate and involvement.
- 4.2 Promote a partnership approach to policy development and service delivery.
- 4.3 Remain informed about the evidence and about risks, opportunities and contemporary responses that affect the health of Territorians and communities.
- 4.4 Be apolitical in providing advice and recommendations.
- 4.5 Support advice and recommendations with evidence wherever possible.
- 4.6 Ensure recommendations and advice are made in the best interest of the health system as a whole, rather than sectional or vested interest.
- 4.7 Endeavour to reach consensus.