

Gold Coast Primary Health Network Needs Assessment 2022



Market Assessment

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GOLD COAST

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Market Assessment

Population

The Gold Coast has a broad range of providers that offer services for the Gold Coast community and surrounding regions.

There is a strong public health service presence with 2 public hospitals and 7 community health service centres. More facilities are currently being planned to include one satellite hospital at Tugun and a proposed Hospital at Coomera.

In addition, there are 5 private hospitals and more than ten private organisations that offer outpatient services with day surgery and overnight facilities. There is also a 104-bed private mental health facility.

While there can be wait times to see health professionals, the Gold Coast is generally well serviced. Across most clinical professions, the Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) region has a comparable or higher rate of health workforce than national averages as well as for rates of population accessing services.

Gold Coast mental health services across Gold Coast Health, private psychologists, allied health, and Non-Government Organisations is stretched and at capacity. This is a result on increasing need but also the Government changes to increase access to psychological services through MBS. This has significantly affected access for hard-to-reach groups with Private service providers preferring to offer services MBS clients resulting in wait-times to access NGO and GCPHN funded psychological services.

From 2013 to 2019 there was an average increase in the number of primary health care practitioners of 46.5% across health professions with the largest increases in occupational therapists, osteopaths, physiotherapists.

As at October 2022, there are currently 855 GPs working across 212 general practices in the GCPHN region. For more details, please refer to the specific Primary Health Care Workforce needs assessment topic area.

This growth in the clinical sector is likely to be at least in part due to the local university sector with nursing and allied health programs being offered at three Gold Coast universities and medicine at two of them.

Non-Government Organisations

The GCPHN region has a strong presence of non-government organisations, particularly for mental health service delivery. Additional non-government organisations continue to establish service delivery on the Gold Coast while limited organisations are ceasing Gold Coast operations in the region. These organisations are generally based in older and more established suburbs, particularly Southport, with less of a presence in the northern Gold Coast (Ormeau-Oxenford) where population continues to grow. There is significant interest in an expanded presence of non-government organisations in this area, with more services establishing service options in the northern Gold Coast every year.

Commissioning

GCPHN commission a range of services including local mental, alcohol and other drugs, suicide prevention and chronic diseases services to meet different needs of people in the GCPHN region. As part of the commissioning process, GCPHN facilitates competitive tendering processes with many different providers, including some providers from other states, submitting tenders and expressions of interest for delivery of health services or projects. GCPHN has developed a streamlined approach and supporting systems to evaluate tenders and interview potential providers as part of its competitive tendering processes.

Based on the triangulation of data, service mapping and commissioning processes, it is clear the GCPHN region has a robust local market of health services. For more details on the topic specific analysis of the local health service system please refer to each specific needs assessment topic area.



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“Building one world class health system for the Gold Coast.”

Gold Coast Primary Health Network

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