

The Gold Coast Primary Care Partnership Council met at the GCPHN offices on 28 November 2024.

Attendees:

- Jess Slack, Bolton Clarke (Acting Chair)
- Jessica McAdam - Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast
- Dr Sue Gardiner, Runaway Bay Doctors Surgery
- Thomas McKenna, Services Australia
- Sian Daniel, Bond University
- Ben O'Rourke, Relationships Australia
- Leonie Clancy, Nerang Neighbourhood Centre
- Julie Jomeen, Southern Cross University
- Renata Jones, Multicultural Families Organisation Inc
- Hope Kallinicos, Diabetes Australia
- Sophie Townsend, AAA OT
- Evelin Tiralongo, Griffith University

Apologies

- Anja Piggott, Bolton Clarke
- Shane Klintworth, Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast
- Nicole Langsford, General Practice Gold Coast
- Elaine Spence, Sheree Sheridan, and Christine Stevenson, OzCare
- Tenille Griffiths, Dementia Australia
- Toni Eachus, GoldBridge Rehabilitation
- Rob Libeau, The Noledge House

GCPHN

- Kellie Trigger, Director of Health Intelligence, Planning and Engagement
- Tony de Ambrosis, Director of Commissioning
- Chantelle Howse, Program Coordinator
- Sally Bowler, Senior Project Officer
- Aleksander Stojkovski, Senior Project Officer
- Susan Sullivan, Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Manager

CLINICAL TRIALS

Griffith University Gold Coast Professor Evelin Tiralongo introduced Griffith University's Clinical Trials Unit, which has completed over 60 commercial trials and successful audits in the past decade. The unit is currently recruiting for randomised trials for early Alzheimer's Disease patients through GPs and other health clinicians.

GOLD COAST REGIONAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Kellie Trigger updated PCPC on the Gold Coast Regional Health Needs Assessment. This project, an Australian-first collaboration between multiple health organisations and federal and state government departments, is now at the approval stage. Working group organisations included a State and Federal Government Partnership. It is a collaboration between GCPHN, Gold Coast Health, Kalwun and Qld Ambulance Service along with Department of Health and Aged Care, Qld Health's Systems and Planning Branch and the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs branch, the Qld Aboriginal and Islander Health Council and other Qld PHNs.

The findings will be shared with PCPC in due course, and inform new projects, funding allocation, marketing campaigns, and support for education and service development.

JOINT REGIONAL PLAN FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SUICIDE PREVENTION AND ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Tony de Ambrosis provided an update on the Joint Regional Plan for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services 2020-2025. PCPC members were invited to a stakeholder engagement session to discuss the next iteration of the plan on 5 December. He also discussed the Suicide Prevention Community Action Plan and the work of the local Suicide Prevention Implementation Group.

MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

Please note that the information about this topic is confidential and not for public dissemination or discussion.

Plans are underway to develop a Medicare Mental Health Clinic in northern Gold Coast by 2026, providing immediate support for people in crisis and short-to-medium term care for those with moderate to high mental health needs.

Key considerations raised by PCPC about service delivery included ensuring affordable access, increasing community knowledge, providing multi-disciplinary family/carer support, ensuring clear service pathways, and enhancing communication between services.

PCPC provided feedback on three key themes: **Holistic health** – treating the whole person: The group highlighted the need for increased residential rehabilitation services, multi-disciplinary support for complex needs, social supports, healthy ageing initiatives, addressing menopause issues, inclusion of nurse practitioners, and tackling financial pressures on bulk billing GPs. They also emphasised the importance of community knowledge on critical issues, family/carer support, clear service pathways, and effective communication between services.

Sensitive Care that Meets People's Needs - The group discussed the importance of culturally safe and sensitive physical spaces, strong communication and relationships between NGO, health organisations and GPs to ensure continuity of care, particularly for perinatal mental health services, which currently face significant gaps and fragmentation. It was noted that all-staff adherence to an inclusive framework covering all areas of diversity was vital. They also noted the role of academia in workforce development, student placements, research, and increasing evidence-based practices.

Right Care, Right Time, Right Place - The group highlighted issues such as the lack of confidence in self-navigating mental health support, difficulty in identifying concerns, and the decline of GPs due to financial impacts of bulk billing. To address these challenges, there needs to be a focus on reducing stigma, ensuring accessibility through outreach services and public transport, and effective marketing and promotion.

Outreach services will be crucial for ensuring accessibility for those unable to travel or use a phone, and the service must be easily accessible via public transport. They suggested a triangulated provision of hub, outreach, and transport to support access.

PROPOSED GOLD COAST AGED CARE SYMPOSIUM

GCPHN is undertaking feasibility for a possible Gold Coast Aged Care Symposium for May 2025 and asked PCPC for feedback on aged care issues and content considerations. The group discussed the aged care sector's rapid growth, workforce challenges, funding instability, and the need for infrastructure improvements. Problems are heightened by dislocation of families, limited support for older people in the community, and difficulties by consumers and carers to access and understand available services, especially the ACAT process.

Members said the new Aged Care Quality Standards and Data & Digital Standards has created uncertainty and appears to require a transition to more digitised systems, which will have major financial implications. They suggested the proposed symposium should include diverse participants such as allied health professionals, GPs, NGOs, nursing agencies, support at home providers, Care Finders, frontline workers, and people using the service along with their families and carers. Including government representatives could provide much-needed clarity on recent changes.



*Proposed PCPC dates for next year's meetings are
13 March, 26 June, 11 September, 20 November 2025*