Health Innovation and Reform Council

What is the Health Innovation and Reform Council?

The Health Innovation and Reform Council provides advice to, and reports to, the Minister for Health and the Secretary on the effective and efficient delivery of quality health services at the request of the Minister. The Council engages with and seeks information via public discussion with all elements of the health community. The Council develops advice in partnership with national bodies and policy and clinical professional organisations, and assists the Department and health service groups in policy and operational improvement. The Council is expected to be in place for the long term, having been established in legislation in the Health Services Amendment (Health Innovation and Reform Council) Act 2011.

What does the Council do?

The Council considers system-wide issues as well as opportunities for system-wide innovation and advises on:

- Clinical, hospital and public-health benchmarking and best practice improvements for the Victorian health system;
- The implementation and ongoing review of the Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012-2022, Victorian state health planning and specifically implementation priorities and implementation approach;
- Effective data acquisition, analysis, utilisation and research for the purpose of more effective clinical and policy decision making, and reporting for the public healthcare system; and
- Issues in response to specific requests from the Minister for Health.

What are the Council's priorities?

- Cement Victoria's position as a world leader in health innovation;
- Advance local and international best practices, methods and technology for incremental and transformational change;
- Advise on improving quality and safety;
- Drive a person-centred approach to health system planning and management;
- Promote evidence-based clinical decision making, clinical practice, clinical service delivery and service planning; and
- Advise on developing national health initiatives working in consultation with other levels of government.

Who are the members of the Council?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Hon. Rob Knowles AO</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Bronte Adams</td>
<td>Principal and Founder of Dandolo Partners</td>
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<td>Mr Trevor Carr</td>
<td>CEO of the Victorian Healthcare Association</td>
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<td>Associate Professor Michael Montalto</td>
<td>Director Hospital in the Home - RMH and Epworth Healthcare</td>
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<td>Associate Professor Jill Sewell AM</td>
<td>Deputy Director - Centre for Community Child Health, RCH</td>
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<td>Mr Gary Speck AM</td>
<td>Specialist orthopaedic spinal surgeon, Director &amp; Vice President Australian Medical Association Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Therese Tierney</td>
<td>CEO - Bairnsdale Regional Health Service.</td>
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How does the Council do its work?

The Council engages with and seeks information from all elements of the health community utilising the following:

HIRC Standing Committee(s)

A Standing Committee is established in line with the provisions within the Health Services Amendment (Health Innovation and Reform Council) Act 2011. A Standing Committee undertakes a specific set of tasks as described by its Terms of Reference, or in response to a request from the HIRC. Members of a Standing Committee are appointed by the Minister with advice from the HIRC Chair.

HIRC Advisory Committees and Working Group

A HIRC Advisory Committee or HIRC Working Group is chaired by a Council member and is charged to undertake a specific set of tasks, including the development of preliminary advice for consideration by the HIRC. Advisory Committees and Working Groups are time-limited and comprise of recognised experts or leaders in the area of focus from across the health service sector and other relevant industries.

Engagement of Expert Advisors

From time to time, the HIRC will engage a recognised expert in a particular field to undertake a specific set of tasks, (making it time limited), and to provide a report to HIRC for its consideration.

What is the SQOC?

The SQOC is the name used to refer to the HIRC’s Standing Committee on Health Quality, Safety and Outcomes. The SQOC was established in line with the provisions within the Health Services Amendment (Health Innovation and Reform Council) Act 2011 to provide the HIRC with expert advice regarding improvements in quality and safety to achieve enhanced individual, service and system outcomes.

The SQOC focuses on improvements in quality and safety in order to achieve enhanced service and system outcomes including:

- relevant system-level performance measures (and data) to support regular performance monitoring;
- the recommendation of evidence-based system-level performance targets for measurement and monitoring;
- identified deficiencies in clinically appropriate care;
- approaches to improvement to enhance system-level performance in relation to clinical appropriate care; and
- the alignment of the quality and safety agenda with the national initiatives and the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care.

For more information or to contact the Council