



2018 EMR Alliance Review – Workgroup Overview

Background

From July 2019, it is expected that current transition activities associated with the State funded home and community care program for younger people into the NDIS and the Commonwealth aged care program will be complete. These activities are likely to bring significant change to the funding, policy and program environment. The changed role of DHHS is particularly significant for current partnership arrangements, as are the Commonwealth's priorities associated with regional communities of practice and alliances. Currently, the Alliance is playing an important role in supporting the transition processes, particularly with providing information, assisting in the maintenance of activity, implementing quality improvement initiatives and regional leadership.

With a year to go, it was timely that the Alliance started looking at how it will transition into the new environment. There are lots of questions, such as the nature of its ongoing role in facilitating and responding to Commonwealth directions and requirements, including the Commonwealth quality agenda, market impacts and increased choice and control for clients. In addition, with many Alliance members providing both aged care and NDIS services, and new providers in aged and disability service delivery, the Alliance is well positioned to look at new regional strategic opportunities.

The Eastern Sector Development Team (ESDT), funded to assist the sector during this time of significant change and currently holding the secretariat function for the Alliance, is coordinating a collaborative process for Alliance members to think about the opportunities of these changes.

Alliance members have been participating in review project activities throughout 2018, which have included attending presentations, completing surveys and participating in consultation workshops. From the workshops, a report of member representatives' recommendations was created and released to all members for consideration. This report, along with EMR Alliance project update and Department of Health's Change Management Strategy, was presented at the 25 July 2018 EMR Alliance Convention. Voting on the report's key recommendation and 3 priority actions took place between 25 July – 27 August 2018.

25% of active members voted and the result was:

- 94% voted to establish the proposed member workgroup, with the Eastern Sector Development Team, to explore all member recommendations further; and
- 49% voted the highest priority for the action is 'Advocating for ongoing Government support for the Alliance coordination function' (the remaining 2 priorities received 25% and 26% of the votes)

The voting results and proposed actions were then shared with:

- the project Steering Committee, consisting of Department of Health, Department of Health and Human Services representatives and all Eastern Sector Development Members;
- Alliance members that attended the 28 July 2018 EMR Alliance meeting; and
- all Alliance members via the EMR Weekly Sector Update email 31 August 2018.

The Steering Committee agreed that a Workgroup nomination process, similar to the process used for member representative workshops, would be appropriate and an October 2018 meeting timeframe was set.

Workgroup

To start the next phase of the review work, up to 13 Alliance members were sought to become representative members of an EMR Alliance Review Workgroup. This leadership group had been empowered by the broader membership to drive the implementation of the Alliance Review Report recommendations.

The first meeting will see the group making decisions regarding:

- meeting structure and schedule; and
- how to act on the first priority, 'Advocating for ongoing Government support for the Alliance coordination function'.

There were only 3 criteria to nominate to be a representative on the EMR Alliance Review Workgroup:

1. they must be a current EMR Alliance member with leadership responsibility within their organisation;
2. they must be able to attend an initial 2-3 hour meeting in October 2018; and
3. they must have an interest in providing change management leadership for the EMR Alliance.

Note: Representatives were selected by the Eastern Sector Development Team, ensuring that a variety of service and organisation types are represented across both Inner and Outer East.

Workgroup nominations closed 5pm Monday 8 October 2018, the 13 successful nominees were notified Tuesday 9 October 2018 and membership was advised Thursday 11 October 2018.

The EMR Alliance Review Workgroup's inaugural member representatives are:

- Sarah Yeates, Manager, Caladenia Dementia Care
- Rita Lang, CEO, Bridges
- Brenda Dennis, Manager, Balwyn Evergreen Centre
- Rachel Bast, Community Services Coordinator, Mountain District Learning Centre
- Debra Benger, Senior Allied Health Manager, Access Health
- Gillian Smith, Primary Care Manager, Inspiro
- Nikki Matthews, Team Leader Community Care, Link Health Care
- Russel Anbiah, Clinical and Allied Health Services Manager, EACH
- Verity Spokes, Assistant Manager East, Bolton Clarke
- Sharon Porteous, Active Healthy Ageing Advisor, IEPCP
- Jasmine Kallaur, Team Leader Social Support, Knox City Council
- Tracey Easte, Service Coordinator, Calvary Community Care
- Amanda Mehegan, Regional Manager, AgeWell Centres Melbourne
- Eastern Sector Development Team (Ayesha Fathers, Dale Park, Joanna Parlapiano, Lisa Dean)

Workgroup – 31 October 2018 Meeting

The first meeting of the EMR Alliance Review Workgroup was held 31 October 2018 and the agenda included:

- Project Background
- Workgroup Governance & Administration
- Priority 1 - Advocating for ongoing Government support for the Alliance coordination function
- Priority 2 & 3 – Reviewing Membership and Developing Business Case

The agreed outcomes of the 31 October 2018 meeting included:

- Chair - Debra Benger, Senior Allied Health Manager, Access Health
- Vice Chair - Sarah Yeates, Manager, Caladenia Dementia Care
- Next meeting will be held Tuesday 27 November 2018, 9.30-11.30am, Inspiro Belgrave
- November 2018 Minutes will be taken by Russel Anbiah, Clinical and Allied Health Services Manager, EACH
- Chair Debra Benger & Ayesha Fathers will provide an update to Alliance members at the December 2018 Alliance meeting
- The meeting schedule, which will be reviewed in June 2019, will alternate last Tuesday & Wednesday of the month
- Ayesha Fathers will:
 - send out a November calendar invite to Workgroup members
 - create Workgroup contact list, distribute amongst group and make available to Alliance members
 - consolidate discussion outcomes from October 2018 meeting and send to Workgroup for voting
 - draft MOU from discussion outcomes and send to Workgroup for voting
 - implement actions members have agreed on (e.g. draft letter to address priority 1)
- Workgroup to send Ayesha ideas for name