

FACT SHEET

Latrobe Regional Health Community Advisory Committee

Latrobe Regional Health (LRH) has a major role in planning future health services for the Gippsland region.

As our hospital expands and new opportunities to provide care and treatment arise, it's even more important our team listens to the experts – the people in our community.

Our Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is a formal way for us to work with the community and listen to their needs.

What is the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)?

The CAC is made up of people from the community who raise issues that are of concern to LRH patients, families and carers.

The appointment of community members is on the basis of their capacity to represent a broad range of views and interests.

CAC members help the LRH Board of Directors, Executive, health professionals and other staff stay in touch with what is important to the people who use LRH services.

What is the purpose and role of the CAC?

Under the Health Services Act 1988, public health service boards must appoint a CAC.

The main purpose of our CAC is to ensure the LRH Board of Directors have an understanding and appreciation of community views about hospital services.

LRH is committed to ensuring these views and the experience of our community and the people who use our services – our consumers – are embedded in planning, policy making and delivering care.

The CAC is vital to the functioning of the board and is an important two-way channel, bringing information to the board's attention and taking information back to the community.

Who is on the CAC?

LRH's CAC has 10 community members. There are at least three LRH Board Directors who report information and advice from the CAC back to the board. One of these Board Directors is the CAC chair. A community member acts as Deputy Chair.

CAC meetings are attended by LRH's Chief Executive or a delegate of the Executive. Other key personnel are the General Manager Governance and General Manager Strategy and Engagement who support CAC members to carry out their role.



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Who can join the CAC?

Anyone who has an interest in the way LRH provides services can apply to join the CAC. However, people who have had direct experience with the hospital or its community services are preferred, for example, current or former patients, consumers, carers or family members. We welcome input from First Nations peoples and people of all ages and abilities, cultures, ethnic backgrounds and LGBTIQ+ communities.

It is also an advantage to be able to bring the views of any community, social or sporting groups you may belong to and share any outcomes or improvements LRH is making with these networks. People appointed to the CAC become members of LRH's Community Champions program which provides administrative support and training to fulfil the role.

The evidence suggests community input makes a difference in many ways

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is a national body which focuses on the safe delivery of health care. It says there is good evidence that health professionals working in partnership with consumers and community members, can help improve health services.

 Better patient and community experience <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Improved patient satisfaction✓ Improved patient engagement✓ Improved community perceptions of healthcare organisations	 Better workforce experience and improved wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Improved workforce satisfaction✓ Improved workforce attitudes✓ Less workforce turnover✓ Reduced emotional stress for the healthcare workforce✓ Improved workforce wellbeing	 Better clinical outcomes, safety and quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Lower mortality✓ Reduced readmissions✓ Reduced length of stay✓ Reduced healthcare acquired infections✓ Improved treatment adherence	 Better value care through lower costs of care <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Shorter length of stay✓ Lower costs per case✓ Better utilisation of low versus high cost workforce members✓ Less workforce turnover
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Source: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/partnering-consumers

How do I find more information or apply?



The Community Participation Officer at LRH can advise on the current availability of positions on the CAC and provide a position description and application form. For more information, please contact Sharon Clements on 5173 8145 or email engagement@lrh.com.au