Select Committee on Health Services in South Australia
– yourtown's advocacy submission

What is it about?

yourtown responded to the public consultation on Health Services in South Australia. The Legislative Council of South Australia Select Committee is inquiring into and reporting on opportunities to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of health services.

Why is it important?

Advancing the health equity of all South Australians, particularly children and young people, regardless of whether they live in urban, rural, or remote areas cannot be achieved by the health sector alone. It requires collaborative action and alignment of priorities across all sectors, services, and between the professionals who deliver them whether in government or non-government service sectors.

Some of **yourtown**'s key messages:

1. The South Australian Government should implement a mechanism to facilitate better coordinated and integrated care within the health, mental health, and other systems, and increase investment in digital health services to bridge the gap when other services are unavailable.

Some of the systems challenges that need to be overcome to achieve a whole of systems approach include removal of restrictive policies related to information and data sharing, and structural barriers to supporting young people needing services across multiple systems (whether operated by government, or publicly or privately funded non-government services).

The health and mental health system should be designed to prioritises prevention and early intervention, and facilitates warm referrals to other support services, and warm 'handoffs' within health services; with targeted investment in telehealth and digital mental health services (such as Kids Helpline).

2. Investment should be focused on evidenced-based quality interventions.

Targeted investment should support early years child development and mental health and wellbeing for children and teenagers in schools this includes mental health services, specifically prevention and early interventions that address age and developmental needs, are holistic, and have consideration for ecological factors (including family, school, transition periods and community contexts).

3. Services and supports for children and young people should be prioritised.

These services should be designed to 'meet' young people where they are at, using technology and methods that are agile and relevant in the 21st Century, and for a scaffolded experience journey that supports the child, young person, parent, carer, or supporter along every step of help seeking.

4. Development of a heath workforce plan would foster opportunities to build digital health capability.

This will ensure a range of health and mental health services (including digital services) are available to increase accessibility and affordability for children and young people.

READ YOURTOWN'S FULL SUBMISSION