

Tumut Health Service Plan 2005, & Implementation Plan 2005-2008

Tumut District Hospital

- "Tumut District Hospital is a 34-bed facility with 26 acute beds, 4 obstetric beds and 4 cots.
- Service provision at Tumut District Hospital meets level 3 role delineation, (NSW Health Role Delineation Guidelines, 3rd Edition 2002). This is consistent with its role as a District Hospital providing surgical and obstetric services." *page 28*

Services

- "The provision of effective emergency, mental health, allied health and maternity services is significantly affected by the poor facility condition at the Tumut District Hospital site. There is insufficient space in the emergency department to provide a suitable environment for emergency patients or mental health clients, and consumers identified concerns about the location of the maternity ward in the centre of the hospital, with consequent lack of privacy for all." *page 37*
- "The local x-ray service is well supported and available free to public patients. However there is only a limited ultrasound service available in Tumut through a private provider – users raised concerns about the high costs involved in accessing this service. They also raised concerns about the lack of a public provider in Wagga Wagga – many patients have to travel to Wagga for more specialist ultrasound and found the up-front costs quite prohibitive." *page 38*
- "Tumut District Hospital provides a level 3 emergency department service with support from local GP/VMOs. Patients are transferred to Wagga or the ACT if a higher level of care is needed.
- The service is affected by the physical environment at the site. There is only a single room in the ED with no separate room with resuscitation facilities. This means that in an emergency, patients and staff may have to work in a very compromised environment that provides no privacy for the patients or staff.
- The Hospital provides Level 3 intensive care and coronary care which means that suitable patients can receive increased nursing support in a designated high dependency area. Bedside monitoring can be provided for coronary care patients with supervision by local GP/VMOs.
- A draft Model of Future Health Service Requirements prepared by Essential Equity for NSW Health projects emergency department growth at 2.5% per annum on top of population growth and ageing. NSW Health projects one ED treatment space per 1,500 attendances which would suggest a requirement for 3 treatment spaces at Tumut District Hospital.
- The provision of effective emergency care is directly affected by the poor physical infrastructure at Tumut

District Hospital. This compromises the ability to provide a safe working environment and an appropriate level of confidentiality and privacy for clients and the ability to provide effective care for mental health clients." *page 39*

- "Tumut Health Service does not provide any significant Rehabilitation program. The nearest acute rehabilitation program is at Wagga Base Hospital and geriatric evaluation and maintenance programs are provided at the Forrest Centre in Wagga Wagga and the Mercy Care Centre in Young." *page 43*

- There are no dedicated mental health beds at Tumut District Hospital but some local mental health clients are admitted to the hospital for short periods to allow for stabilisation and support before discharge to the local community mental health team or to a higher level of in-patient service in Albury or Wagga Wagga." *page 45*

- "Maternity - The population of Tumut is relatively stable although as stated in section 4.6 of this plan, there is a projected increase in job opportunities due to expansion of local industries and this is likely to increase the number of young families in the area. It is therefore assumed that the demand for obstetric services at Tumut Health Service will continue at the same or increasing levels." *page 46*

- "Role delineation - Tumut Health Service will continue to provide services consistent with Level 3 as described in the NSW guide to role delineation. The only proposed change is an increase in local pharmacy services to increase the role delineation from level 1 to level 3 in order to provide adequate support for other clinical services." *page 55*

Population, Age, & Employment

- "Information from Tumut Shire Council suggests that this population growth has continued since 2001, with the estimated resident population in 2003 being 11,547 (a 2.8% increase from the 2001 census figure). The number of people on the electoral role increased by 3% in the 2 years to March 2005 (Electoral Office April 2005), and the labour force increased by 4% in the period March 2002 to December 2004 (Small Area Labour Markets Report, Dept of Employment & Workplace Relations April 2004.)" *page 18*

- "Information from Tumut Shire Council, suggests that the population is increasing and that this trend is likely to continue. There are a number of significant industry expansions planned for the next few years and this is likely to result in an increased workforce and increased

population.

- The proposed expansions include: \$56 million expansion of the Weyerhaeuser Tumut mill with the potential to create 30 direct and 12 indirect jobs. \$360 million expansion of the Tumut Visy Pulp & Paper Mill will double current capacity and, it is predicted, will result in 100 direct and 450 indirect jobs. Increase in pine plantations to cater for increased processor demands will also result in increased jobs (industry estimates are for between 670 and 1000 jobs in the region). Increases in tourism promotion and infrastructure will also increase employment opportunities. There are current projects for a \$750,000 expansion to a motel and for a multi million dollar fishing lodge next to the Tumut River. Tumut Council is currently planning to release close to 200 new building blocks on to the market to help to meet the growing demands due to job growth." *page 19*
- "The population of Tumut is also ageing with a predicted increasing proportion of people over 65. This may increase the demand for services to meet the needs of those with chronic and complex conditions and may also increase the demand for residential and community based aged care." *page 24*
- "In 2001, people over 65 made up 15% of the Tumut population while people over 75 accounted for 11% of the total population. Yet these age groups use a significant proportion of hospital services – in 2003/2004 35% of all admissions and 57% of all beddays were for people over 65." *page 43*
- "Chronic conditions are increasing in our communities as the population ages and the effects of lifestyle factors such as smoking and poor nutrition take hold. It is estimated that in the next 25 years, new cases of diabetes will increase by 127 %, the incidence of COPD will increase in females by 9%, and the incidence of chronic musculoskeletal disorders will increase by 79%." *page 42*

Infrastructure Condition

- The emergency department is inadequate with no private space for dealing with mental health clients, resuscitation emergencies or distressed relatives.
- The location of the maternity wards in the middle of the hospital results in a lack of privacy for mothers and families and for other patients.
- The Community Health Centre is poorly designed to meet the needs of community members and staff, and has very poor external access, particularly for people with disabilities.
- Tumut Health Service was identified as a priority for redevelopment by the former Greater Murray Area Health Service, but at this stage is not included on the NSW Health capital works program. It is likely therefore that any redevelopment project is some years away." *page 54*
- "The Tumut District Hospital Development Committee was established in May 1999 in response to a public meeting that raised concerns about the inadequacies of the current Tumut District Hospital to service its present

and projected community.

- The committee consists of doctors, health professionals and general community members.
- The objective of the committee is to ensure that the Tumut District Hospital is replaced by 2009 and has met with a number of key health service personnel over the past 5 years to lobby for inclusion of Tumut in the Area's capital works program.
- Most recently, the committee met with the then Deputy Administrator of Greater Southern Area Health Service, Dr Joe McGirr, in late 2004. The outcome of this meeting was an agreement to undertake a service plan and facility review as the first steps of a planning process for a new facility at Tumut." *page 16*
- "The provision of effective emergency care is directly affected by the poor physical infrastructure at Tumut District Hospital. This compromises the ability to provide a safe working environment and an appropriate level of confidentiality and privacy for clients and the ability to provide effective care for mental health clients." *page 39*
- (There is a need for) "The complete redevelopment of Tumut Health Service (and this) should be included on the NSW Health capital works program and planning for a new facility should commence within the next 3 -5 years." *page 54*

Recommendation Implementation plan 2005-2008

- "Include the complete redevelopment of Tumut Health Service on the NSW Health capital works program with planning to commence within the next 3-5 years"

Action required - GSAHS to confirm Tumut Health Service as a priority for redevelopment. Lobby NSW Health to identify Tumut Health Service as a priority and to include on its capital works program with planning to commence within 3-5 years.

Desired Outcome

- "The Tumut Health service will have access to the necessary equipment and infrastructure to support the delivery of the services identified in its Service Plan."
- "Desired outcome - A new facility is completed for Tumut Health Service by 2012"

Comment:

- The Timeframe was to have the Facility Review of Tumut District Hospital completed by March 2006.
- *Person(s) responsible* - GSAHS Chief Executive, GSAHS Director Corporate Services, GSAHS Asset Manager.
- **This review did not take place.**

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