



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health

# Supplementary questions for witnesses – Thursday 12 December 2024

## The implementation of PC2 recommendations relating to cross-jurisdictional health reform and government consultation with remote, rural and regional communities

### Western NSW Primary Health Network

1. In its [Progress Report](#), NSW Health noted that Western NSW PHN is a partner in the Co-located Clinics Project (**Recommendation 22**).
  - a. Can you provide an update on this project?
  - b. Has a patient information sharing system been rolled out across health services in remote, rural and regional areas?

### **Response:**

#### **Background**

*“Many clinicians in regional and remote areas provide health care in both General Practice (the community) and NSW Health facilities. However, there are issues accessing and sharing patient information between current systems and across providers which impacts transfer of care and patient experience. Sharing NSW Health medical information with a patient’s nominated GP or General Practice aims to improve continuity and quality of care, and overall patient experience. eHealth NSW partnered with Western NSW LHD, Far West LHD (FWLHD), Western NSW Primary Health Network, Royal Flying Doctor Service and Aboriginal Medical Services to understand the specific challenges and deliver an information sharing solution in line with the current Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (HRIP Act). From <https://www.ehealth.nsw.gov.au/solutions/clinical-care/information-exchanges/co-located-gp-clinics>”*

#### **Co located GP Clinics Pilot Project**

- 2-year pilot commenced August 2024 Involving FWLHD and GP’s/ General Practices operating within Far West Region of NSW. Leveraging existing HealthNet- NSW Statewide secure clinical portal & Provider Digital Access (PRODA) portal for GPs to verify their identification using two-factor authentication before being able to view the NSW Health clinical information
- Enables GPs & General Practices in Far West NSW with secure **view only** \*access to the NSW Health statewide clinical portal (HealthNet).

- Data displayed in HealtheNet to the GP is an aggregated summary level **"view only"** of the patient's clinical information across NSW Health Services, NSW Health clinical systems and My Health Record. (My Health Record data available from Nov 2024 onwards)
- GPs/Practices participating in the pilot must sign a contractual agreement to ensure pt privacy & confidentiality.
- Patients attending NSW Health facilities must also provide their consent. When a patient attends a NSW Health facility in Far West Local Health District for medical treatment, a staff member will confirm details of their GP or general practice. They will also be asked whether they give consent to share health information held by NSW Health with their GP or general practice. "This allows the sharing of patient information between acute and primary care," said Brenton Jones, the senior digital health officer of WNSW PHN.

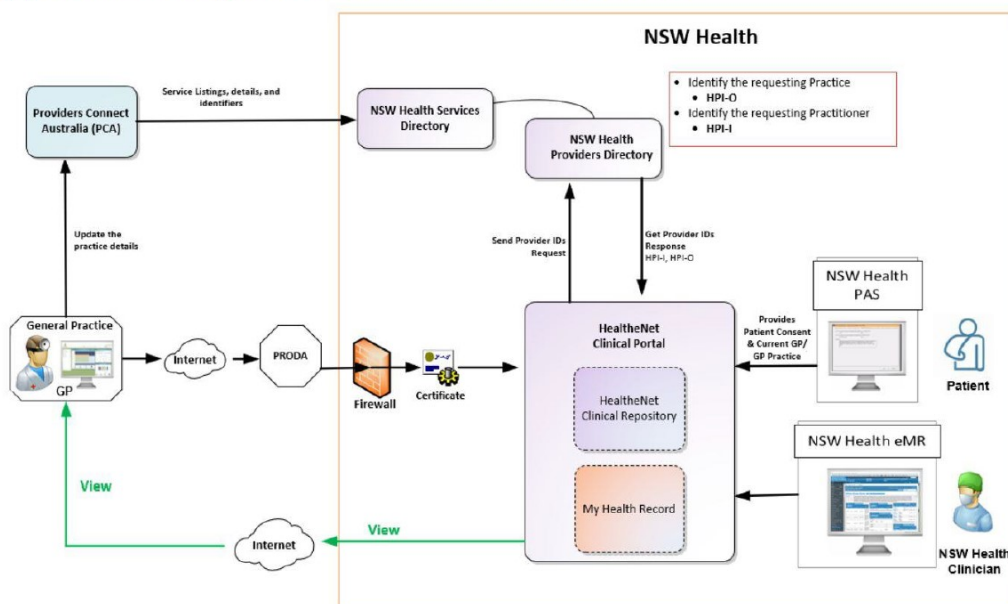
### Aim of The Pilot

- Improve continuity and transfer of care, patient experience, and health outcomes through sharing of patient information between acute and primary care.
- Trial and review of HealtheNet access for health practitioners operating in the FWLHD. See also **The Benefits** <https://www.ehealth.nsw.gov.au/solutions/clinical-care/information-exchanges/co-located-gp-clinics>

eHealth NSW

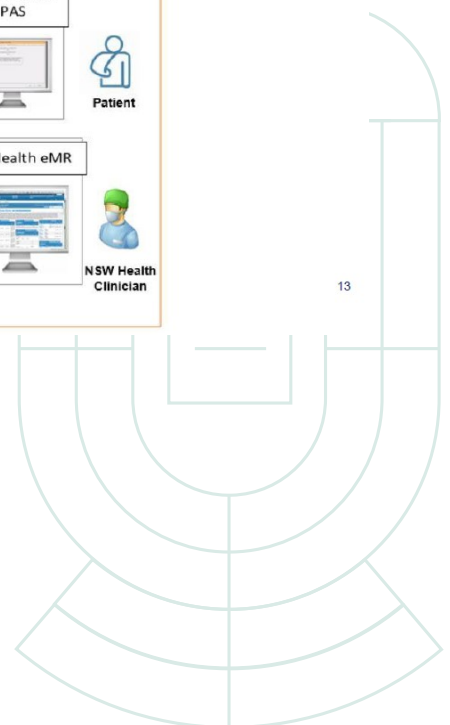


### Appendix A: High-Level End-to-End Workflow

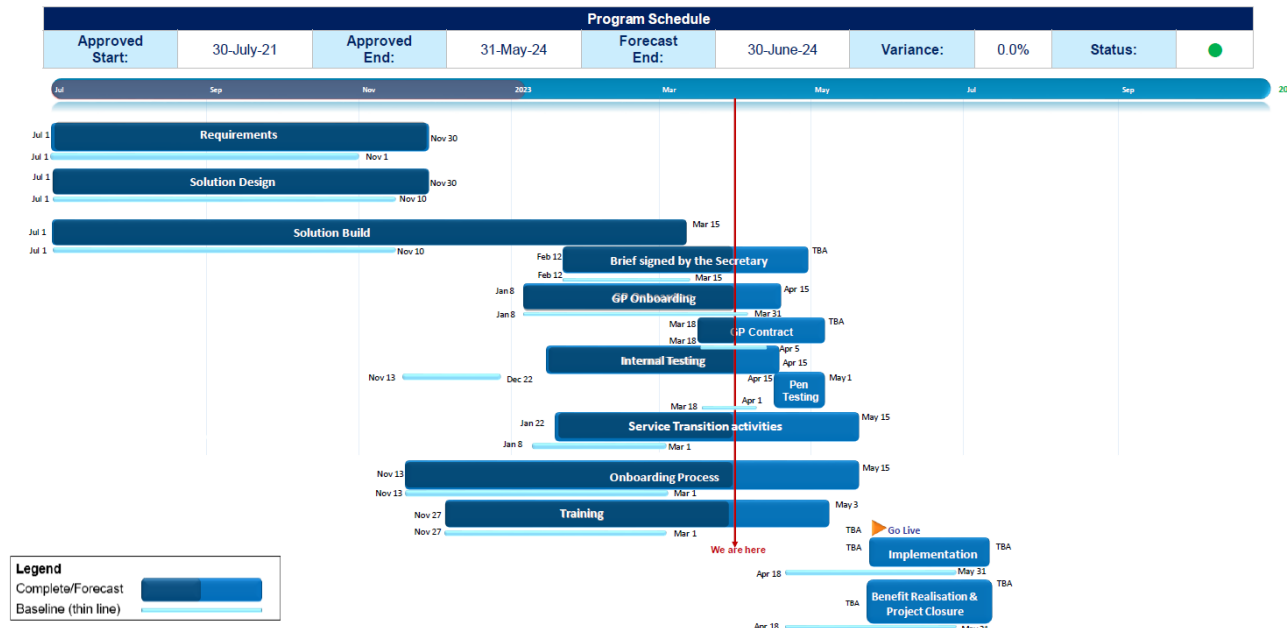


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**Project delivery timeline as of April 2024 – Go-live was Aug 2024.**



# Co-located GP Clinics - Project Delivery Timeline



2. Can you comment on whether the number of GP training positions in your regions has increased in the last two years since the PC2 report? (**Recommendation 14**)

**Response:**

- 2024 Term 1 - 75 registrars
- 2024 Term 2 - 57 registrars

The WNSW PHN has reached out to RACGP for 2023 numbers as they did not share them previously.

3. How effectively has NSW Health worked with your PHN in the roll out of the single employer model for GPs across your areas? (**Recommendation 9**)

**Response:**

WNSWPHN provide support to the 4Ts practice via the PHN Practise Development Officer team.

During 2024 and set for 2025 quarterly meetings have been established between NSW Health RGSEP project team and PHNs in which western NSW PHN is involved.

Round 2 of recruitment occurred late 2024

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fjobs.health.nsw.gov.au%2Fjobs%2Frural-generalist-trainee-267614&data=05%7C02%7Cbrad.porter%40wnswphn.org.au%7Cd3f9730803e346f00ce608dce27e1bf%7C3a417f0a466542e0a2cb686915490e8a%7C1%7C0%7C638634278598469390%7CUnkn own%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hGIqoMRSy7usss9ztMVdpbzkIE%2BL7LFUkzSLxTQkjlQ%3D&reserved=0>