

# College of Health and Medicine

## Allied Health Education and Training Reference Group (External)

### Terms of Reference

#### 1. Purpose

The Allied Health Education and Training Reference Group (External) is a time-limited group that brings together allied health representatives, who are external to the University of Tasmania, with experience and expertise in their relevant fields to provide advice to the Expanding Allied Health Offerings within the CHM project.

#### 2. Project Objective

The School of Health Sciences is considering if there is a case for expanding Allied Health course offerings that are viable, sustainable and will respond to allied health needs in Tasmania, and beyond.

To this end, a Design Thinking Approach is being used that deals with four questions, which correspond to four stages of the process: What is? What if? What wows? and What works?

The 'What is?' stage explores current reality. 'What if?' envisions a new future. 'What wows?' makes some choices. 'What works?' takes us into the marketplace.

#### 3. Background to the Project

Allied health is highly complex and involves many different professions with specific expertise, training pathways, sectors of practice and professional governance. While UTAS has periodically explored new course offerings (ie. physiotherapy and occupational therapy) it is the only Australia state not offering entry level allied health courses. UTAS has instead primarily relied on pathway models where most Tasmanian students interested in allied health careers use either the Bachelor of Health Science or the Bachelor of Exercise Science as a foundational degree to enter graduate entry Master's qualification in their profession of choice. A small number of Tasmanian students are eligible to study Medical Imaging or Optometry through credit articulation agreements with partnering universities.

The College of Health and Medicine (CHM), under its new strategic direction, aims to ensure a comprehensive range of highly qualified health professionals are available to meet the health service needs of Tasmanian communities, and conduct research and develop strategies to promote wellness, facilitate healthy communities and prevent chronic disease.

The governing thought for this project is that we will contribute to the development and education of agile allied health professionals with capability in leadership and future-focused health care, to help drive the transformation of health outcomes in Tasmania and beyond.

The situation is there are limited allied health education and training schemes to assist allied health students with entry-to-practice qualifications, and practitioners with ongoing studies and continuing professional development. Without a cross sector allied health workforce development and supply

strategy, we will be poorly positioned to impact, improve and transform health outcomes through allied health care.

The complication is the strength and viability of allied health education and training schemes is threatened by several environmental, internal and external forces, and diverse accreditation requirements. Nevertheless, the required, current and future health workforce will require new entry-to-practice options, practice extension opportunities and systematic professional development to effect cultural, system and knowledge transformation.

The CHM is committed to using a co-design approach and is seeking to work closely and collaboratively with Tasmanian allied health professionals to explore expansion of post graduate allied health study options, create flexible pathways for entry and progression, and strategically offer short courses designed to building capacity in workforce development.

#### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

The role of the Allied Health Education and Training Reference Group (External) is to:

4.1 Attend meetings and contribute their experience and expertise to the discussion related to the Project objectives.

4.2 Provide grass roots perspective in relation to the design and delivery of allied health education and training programs for offer by UTAS.

4.3 Provide feedback and advice on issues raised through their discussions with the allied health community.

4.4 Assist with disseminating relevant project information within the allied health communities across different sectors.

4.5 Being an advocate for the project within the allied health communities and Tasmanian regions.

#### **3. Operations**

3.1 Three meetings will be scheduled for the remainder of 2019, with additional meetings negotiated with the Reference Group for 2020.

3.2 Meetings will be for no more than one hour.

3.3 The meeting schedules will be determined after the first meeting and governed by the development of agreed timelines.

3.4 The School of Health Sciences will be responsible for the administration associated with the Reference Group, including organisation of meetings, venues, agendas and papers.

3.5 The Reference Group will operate from June 2019 – Dec 2019, which may be extended in 2020 if required.

3.6 Reference Group members will not be permitted to speak with media outlets on behalf of the project or reference group discussions.

#### **4. Governance**

##### **4.1 Chair**

The Project Sponsor, Professor Nuala Byrne will Chair the Meetings.

##### **4.2 Minutes & Meeting Papers**

The Project Lead, Dr Lisa Dalton, will prepare and maintain minutes and papers of each meeting.



