

Username

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Please indicate your sector of involvement/interest

Acute Care

Location

Acute Care

1. What changes in models of care and in the way we deliver care are (a) most urgent, and (b) what implications will this have on capacity requirements?

(a) Expanding acute hospital capacity

(b) There needs to be a significant enhancement in acute bed numbers AND community provision to reduce admissions to hospital and promote efficient bed use.

2. How can current capacity be more effectively used?

Current capacity is inadequate, and more beds will be required regardless of reasonable efficiency improvements. Population growth has not been adequately catered for in the past 20 years. The focus on greater efficiency is not a sufficient response. There needs to be a sufficient number of beds to enable proper acute flow through appropriate modes of inpatient care. Availability of 'slip wards' which can be flexed in and out of use would be beneficial and would promote efficiency by preventing closures for works, redecoration and maintenance apart from providing surge capacity. Emergency Departments are overwhelmed too easily solely because of bed shortages precluding onward movement in the patient journey. The provision of more reactive 24/7 community and psychiatric services would greatly aid hospitals in directing patients to more appropriate channels of care expeditiously.

3. What do you consider to be the priorities for capital investment over the next 15 years?

Increased inpatient beds including day case and short stay beds. Better pre-hospital community-based interventions and improved psychiatric provision especially for children. Establishment of proper 'Places of safety' other than Emergency Departments for children with challenging behaviours.