

A RAPID REVIEW OF INTEGRATED PRIMARY CARE CENTRES AND POLYCLINICS

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POLICY CONTEXT

Integration within primary health care and with secondary care is a major policy concern in many countries, with integrated primary health care centres (IPHCs) often seen as a part of the solution. IPHCs in Australia include GP Super Clinics and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (national), HealthOne NSW (NSW) and GP Plus (SA) in Australia. Proposed national reforms recommend their broader establishment. This review examines what is known about the use and effectiveness of IPHCs in Australia and elsewhere and identifies what Australia can learn from this.

KEY FINDINGS

- There are **two main types of IPHCs**. These complement each other.
 - Extended General Practice services are intended to provide a 'one stop shop' for primary medical and allied health care for the general population. They may have registered patients, but not defined populations. There is limited evidence of improvements in internal (but not external) integration and teamwork and access for some groups to some services, but overall little evidence about their effectiveness.
 - Broader Primary Health Care centres are generally established for groups not effectively served by mainstream services. They may have a defined population rather than registered patients, with a strong focus on equity and significant community involvement in their governance. For some models there is evidence of reaching their target groups, improving access, equity, quality of care and health outcomes.
 - Vertically Oriented Services are less common. They focus mainly on specialist care, with some limited provision for general practice.
- Developing services need strong support, with a bottom up approach, clinician leadership, investment in partnership and team development and effective community engagement.
- IPHCs in Australia will need clear models of care, strong governance structures and flexible approaches to funding.
- Effective integrated primary health care for Australia will require a balance of Extended General Practice and Broader PHC Centres, the choice of single site or hub and spoke models to suit local circumstances, and a strategic choice of integrated centres vs integrated networks of services.

For more details, go to the [three page report](#).

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