



## Recommendations for the future reform of Australia's Primary Health Networks (PHNs)

The Southgate Institute developed the following recommendations for the reform of PHNs based on our research on regional primary health care organisations.

1. The **mandate of the PHNs** should be progressively broadened so that their primary roles are to:
  - a) Provide the necessary coordination and promote partnerships to ensure that access to health care is more equitable, and that the health system is integrated and less fragmented, and better able to meet the changing needs and expectations of the Australian community in relation to curative, rehabilitative and palliative care, disease prevention and health promotion
  - b) Contribute to the reorientation of their region's primary health care (including primary medical care) so that the health system aligns with the principles and practice of comprehensive health care system and advocate for broader system change
  - d) Work with state/territory/local governments and the community to determine unmet needs and plan ways to fill gaps in services so as to ensure equitable and integrated care and regional health promotion in a manner which reflects local needs and priorities, including using pooled funding where appropriate
  - e) Participate in needs based planning in Aboriginal health through the state and territory Aboriginal health planning fora
  - f) Assess the manner in which the social and commercial determinants of health are affecting the health of populations, and provide evidence-based health and social policy responses and facilitate local intersectoral action to address the impact of these determinants, and advocate to all levels of government for relevant change.



