

## Communique

# Meeting 1 2018 Valued and creative collaboration

The Victorian Clinical Council met on 16 March 2018 to reflect on its current state and discuss development requirements to inform its strategy and work plan. The day was led by an external facilitator, Marion Stanway from Tripleconnect.

## Purpose

Provide members of the council with an opportunity to:

- develop a shared understanding of the council's progress and the role of council members
- define the council's values, ways of working and internal and external engagement practices
- understand what it means to think strategically and systemically
- articulate hopes for the future and how the council's potential can be realised.

## Discussion overview

### Current state

The council has achieved a lot in its first year, however a number of improvements need to be made and new ideas implemented to ensure the production of advice that will drive improvements in quality and safety across the Victorian health system.

There was an overwhelming sense that the time is now for clinician and consumer engagement; we have licence to drive change and we should seize this opportunity. Council members identified the engagement with our consumer members to inform and facilitate council discussions as a particular strength. Our diversity of skill and knowledge was notable, however further consideration should be given to who is 'not at the table'.

A clear message from our members was the need to bring greater clarity to our overarching purpose and, as part of this, to be better at closing the loop on council deliberations.

The council considered its governing values and associated behaviours. The Interim Executive Committee has endorsed a set of council values and behaviours based on outputs from the day. In summary, the council will make a difference through collaboration and co-operation, whilst acting with compassion, respect and integrity.

Key elements informing the council's ongoing engagement and communications strategies were identified through a number of activities. The focus of these discussions was both internally and externally facing. The aim of such strategies is to bring greater understanding to what the council does, how we do it, who we do it with and, most importantly, what we have agreed and achieved.

### **The future**

Members desired a future state where the council is: acknowledged and sought out for its collective expertise and wisdom; something that people aspire to join; and a model to inform similar groups elsewhere in the sector. The future was also seen as one where the council's advice has led to improved patient outcomes and improved access to safer care at a person's place of choice.

## **Conclusion**

I am both encouraged and proud that the council is already contributing in a meaningful and timely way to issues of significance to the Victorian health sector. It is important to reflect, to be self-aware and to strive to improve. I thank the members for your honesty and for taking a leap of faith into a very different kind of meeting.

I look forward to continuing the council's discussions on Friday 8 June 2018.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Sewell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Associate Professor Jill Sewell AM  
**Chair, Victorian Clinical Council**