

# Patient Flow: The journey so far

29 November 2017  
Russell Harrison  
Chief Executive Officer

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Western Health 

# The holy grail



# About our communities

- Approx 834,000 people across the wider area we serve - predicted to grow to >1.1 million in a decade
- Two fastest growing municipalities in Australia - Wyndham and Melton – high proportion of young families
- Almost 50% (46.9%) speak a language other than English at home – compared with 36% for Greater Melbourne (in 2016)
- Over 110 languages are spoken in our communities

# Adding Hobart to western Melbourne...

- In less than a decade, regional population growth will equate to adding a city larger than the size of Hobart to the western suburbs of Melbourne – our catchment



# Percentile rank (Victoria)

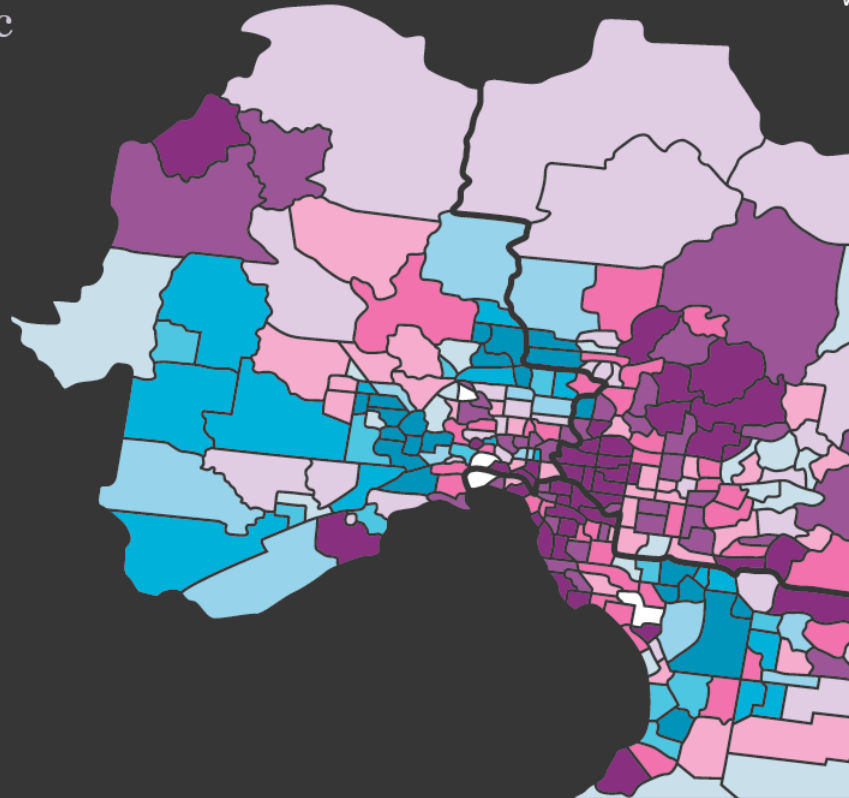
Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage



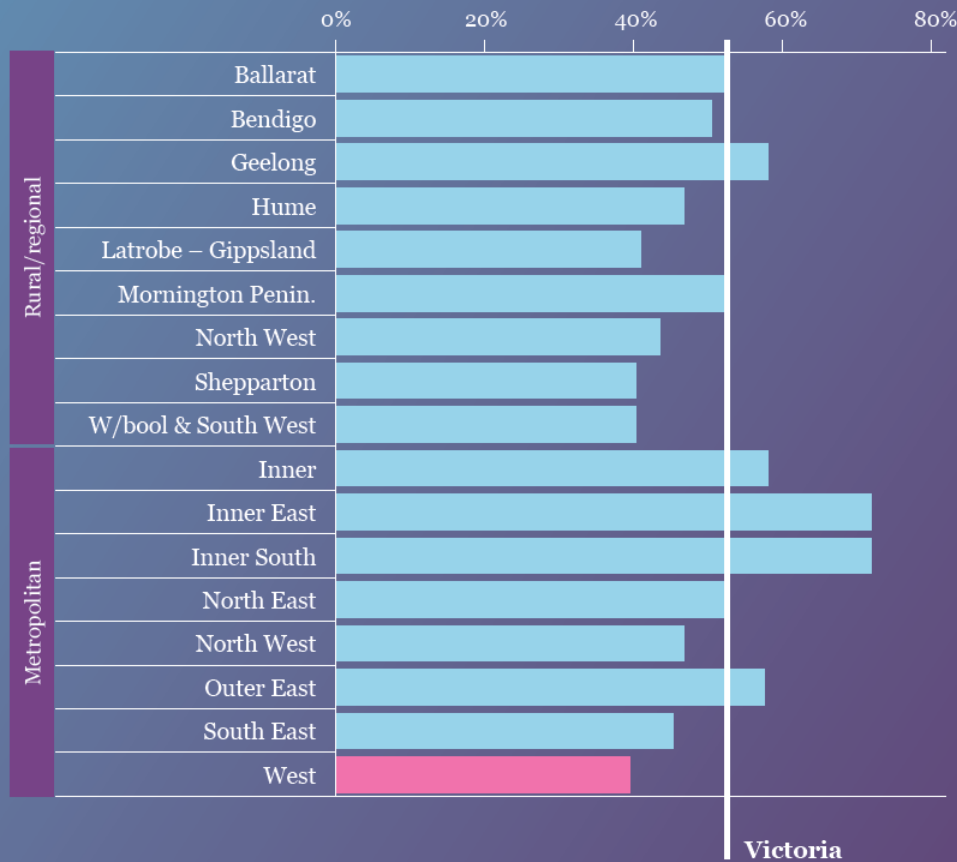
Most disadvantaged



Least disadvantaged



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics



## Limitations of healthcare provision in the West

Percentage of taxpayers with private health insurance (2013/14)

Source: Australian Tax Office

**THE  
STRUGGLE  
IS  
REAL**

May 29 2014

## Worst-performing emergency departments named

**Kate Hagan**  
Health Reporter

Footscray's Western and Frankston hospitals are among Australia's worst-performing hospitals when it comes to federal targets to treat emergency patients within four hours.

A report released on Thursday by the National Health Performance Authority shows the pair were in the lowest 10 per cent of major metropolitan hospitals across Australia on the measure last year.

At the Western Hospital, just 49 per cent of patients in the emergency department were discharged or admitted to hospital within four hours, while Frankston Hospital treated 50 per cent of patients on time.

The Alfred hospital was the only major Melbourne hospital that met a target for Victorian hospitals to treat 75 per cent of emergency patients within four hours last year. It treated 77 per cent of patients within that time.

Other major Melbourne hospitals that struggled to meet the four-hour emergency target were the Box Hill (54 per cent), the Royal Melbourne (55 per cent) and the Northern (56 per cent) hospitals.

In the budget, the federal government abandoned reward payments for hospitals that meet the targets, which could cost Victoria

about \$25 million over the next two financial years.

The targets were agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in 2011, with a requirement that 90 per cent of Australian patients would be admitted to a bed or discharged within four hours by 2015. Interim deadlines varied between states so they could improve on past performances. In Victoria the target will rise from 77 per cent last year to 81 per cent this year.

Overall, about 67 per cent of emergency patients were treated in four hours in Victoria last year.

The Victorian chair of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, Simon Judkins, said the four-hour target had created a greater focus on getting patients through emergency departments, reducing the problem of ambulances queuing to offload patients.

But he said efficiencies in hospitals only went so far and more beds were required for patients needing admission to hospital.

Dr Judkins said emergency doctors were seeking a meeting with federal Health Minister Peter Dutton to determine whether his government remained committed to the four-hour target beyond 2015.

Mr Dutton's office referred questions to the Health Department, which said states were "responsible and accountable for the performance of public hospitals".

### Emergency patients treated within four hours in 2013



|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Alfred                | 77% |
| Monash Medical Centre | 65% |
| Sunshine              | 61% |
| Northern              | 56% |
| Royal Melbourne       | 55% |
| Box Hill              | 54% |
| Frankston             | 50% |
| Western               | 49% |

Source: National Health Performance Authority

*"...Footscray's Western and Frankston Hospitals are among Australia's worst performing hospitals when it comes to Federal targets to treat emergency patients within four hours..."*





## WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?



- 76 year old Kathleen – brought to Sunshine ED by ambulance at 4:00pm Saturday 25 July after complications of a recent fall
- Sufferer of chronic back pain
- She was admitted to EOU, 7:50pm Saturday night
- The decision to admit her to an inpatient bed was made at 1:50pm Sunday – following a scan and x-ray and review by aged care team
- She arrived in 2A at 12.30pm Mon 27 July **>44 hours** after she first arrived at ED

IT'S  
ABOUT  
TIME:

**IT'S  
ABOUT  
TIME:**



# Establishment of Steering Committee & Project Groups

- Weekly steering committee - CEO Chaired
- Project Group areas
- Whole of Hospital access initiatives :-
  - Myth busting
  - Site Access meetings
  - Admission Protocols
  - General Medicine
  - Hospital at Night
  - Sub Acute
  - Community Programs Stream

# First improvement targets

**IT'S ABOUT TIME:**

AT FOOTSCRAY HOSPITAL  
WE'RE AIMING FOR A

**CONSISTENT  
ED PERFORMANCE**

TARGET  
OF **65%**\*

\* Based on 4 hour performance.  
By 1 Nov 2015.

**IT'S ABOUT TIME:**

AT SUNSHINE HOSPITAL  
WE'RE AIMING FOR A

**CONSISTENT  
ED PERFORMANCE**

TARGET  
OF **60%**\*

\* Based on 4 hour performance.  
By 1 Dec 2015.

IT'S ABOUT TIME.

AT FOOTSCRAY HOSPITAL  
WE'RE AIMING FOR A  
**CONSISTENT  
ED PERFORMANCE  
TARGET OF 65%\***

\* Based on other performance  
in 2018/19

By making small changes  
and working together,



**WE CAN  
PROVIDE CARE AT  
THE RIGHT TIME**  
(WITHIN 4 HOURS)

WE'RE  
AIMING FOR  
AN EXTRA 10  
PATIENTS



TO BE  
TREATED IN  
A TIMELY WAY  
PER DAY.

++++  
**+10**



**WE CAN DO THIS BY:**



**WHAT THIS MEANS  
FOR FOOTSCRAY HOSPITAL  
ON A GIVEN DAY:**



For more information, please visit: [footscraytime](https://www.westernhealth.org.au/footscraytime)

IT'S ABOUT TIME.

AT SUNSHINE HOSPITAL  
WE'RE AIMING FOR A  
**CONSISTENT  
ED PERFORMANCE  
TARGET OF 60%\***

\* Based on other performance  
in 2018/19

By making small changes  
and working together,



**WE CAN  
PROVIDE CARE AT  
THE RIGHT TIME**  
(WITHIN 4 HOURS)

WE'RE  
AIMING FOR  
AN EXTRA 18  
PATIENTS



TO BE  
TREATED IN  
A TIMELY WAY  
PER DAY.

++++  
**+18**



**WE CAN DO THIS BY:**



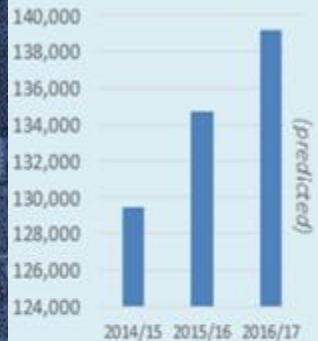
**WHAT THIS MEANS  
FOR SUNSHINE HOSPITAL  
ON A GIVEN DAY:**



For more information, please visit: [sunshinetime](https://www.westernhealth.org.au/sunshinetime)

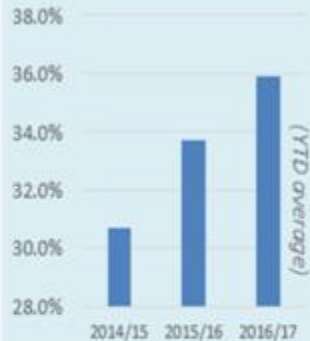
# Equal weight for Quality & Performance

## Patients Presenting



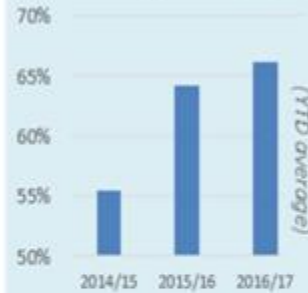
Our emergency departments are busy and increasingly getting busier

## Patients Admitted



More emergency department patients have conditions that require inpatient care

## Patients discharged <4 hrs



We have made inroads into treating patients more quickly

## Patients Failing to Wait



Fewer patients are leaving our emergency departments before they are seen

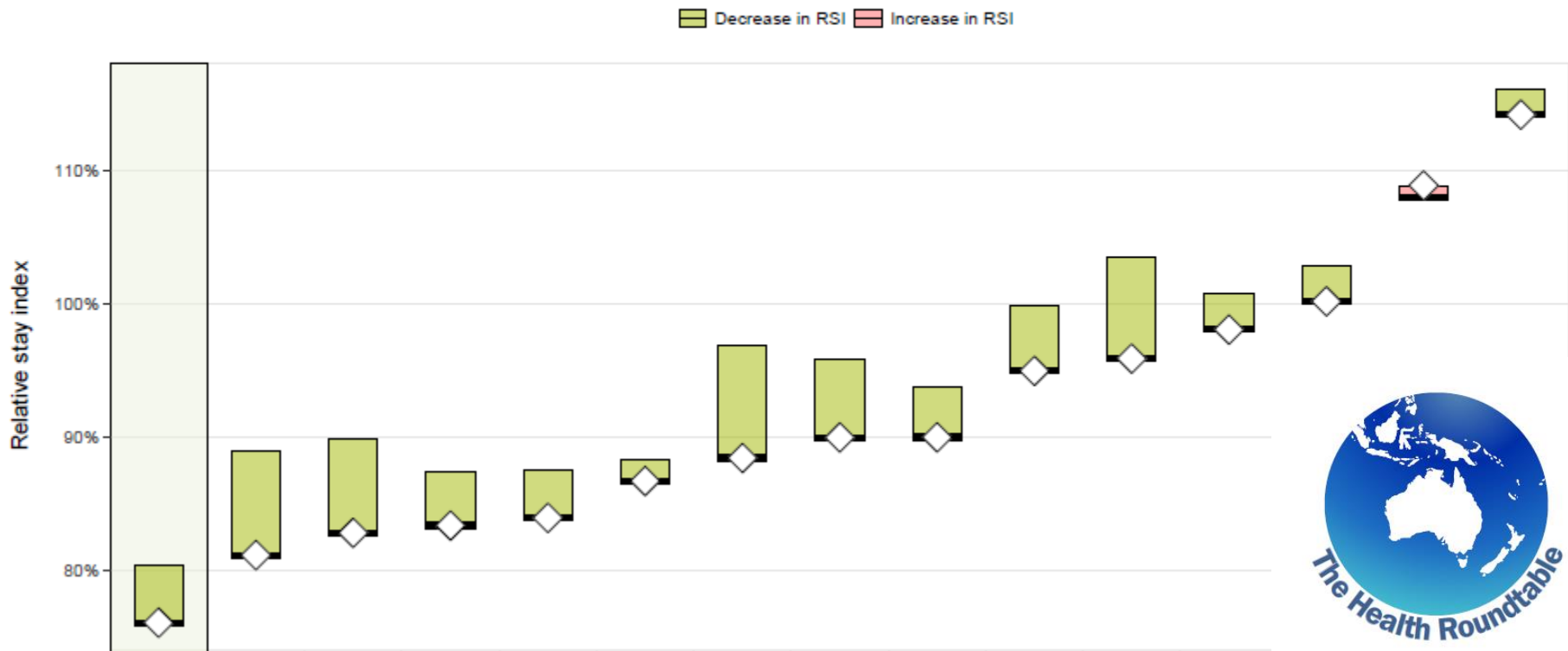
## Patient Satisfaction with ED Care



Patient overall satisfaction with overall care remains positive  
(source: Victorian Health Experience Monitor Oct-Dec)

# Relative stay index

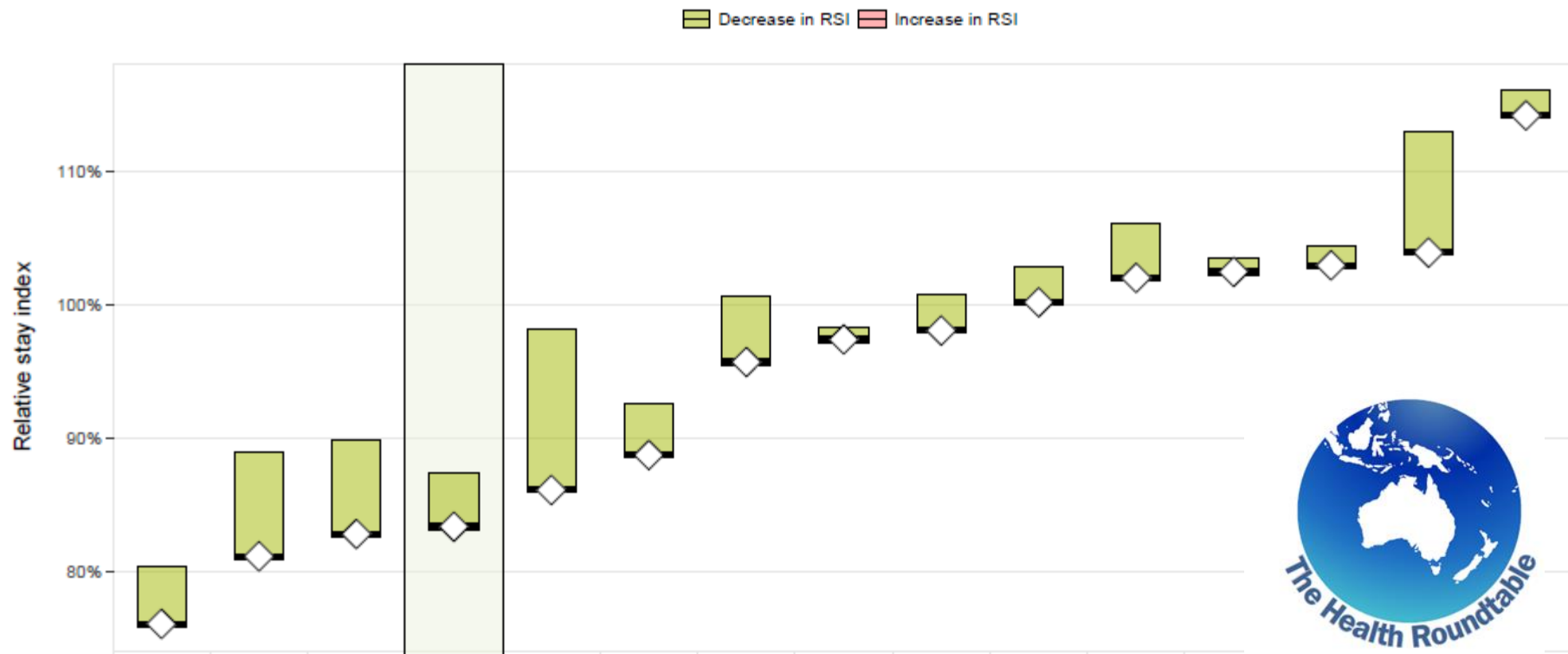
Relative stay index at Scorpio fell to 76% in the latest period



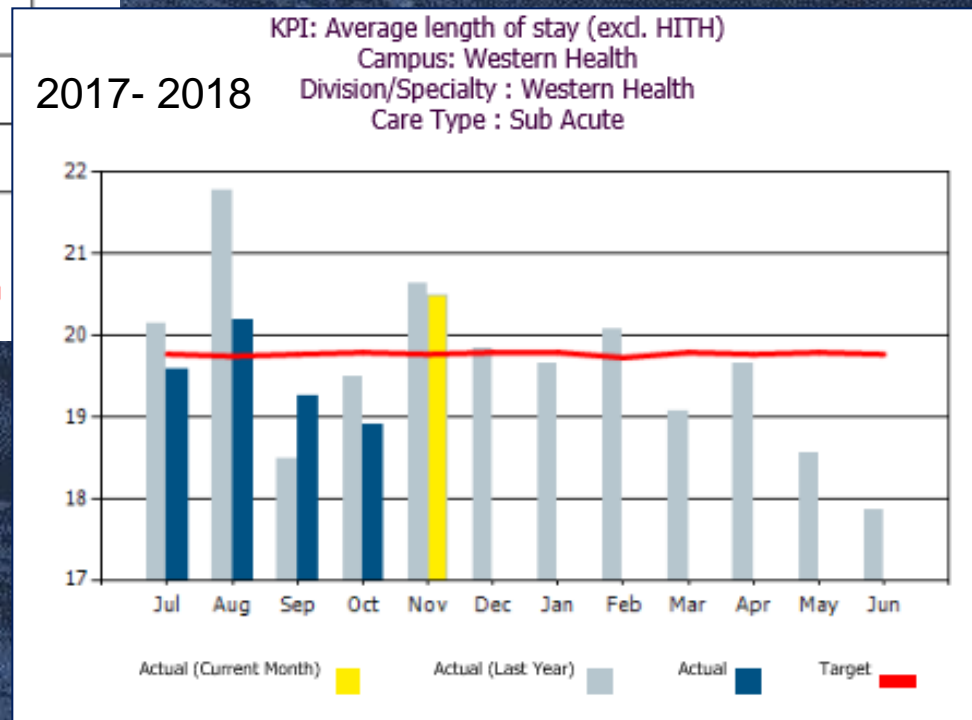
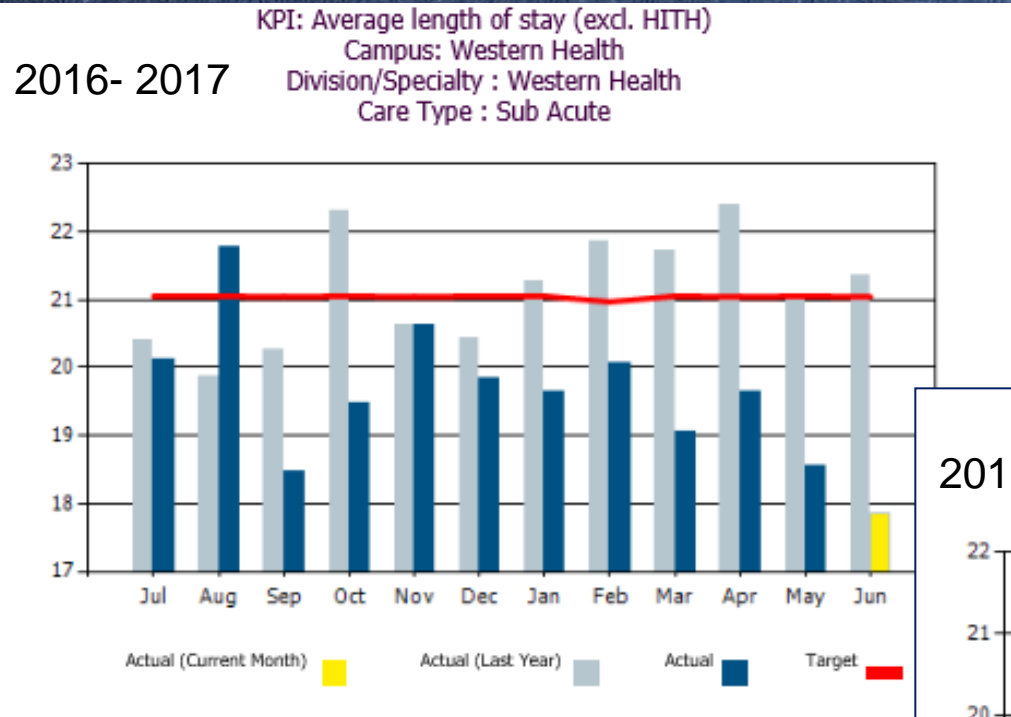


# Relative stay index

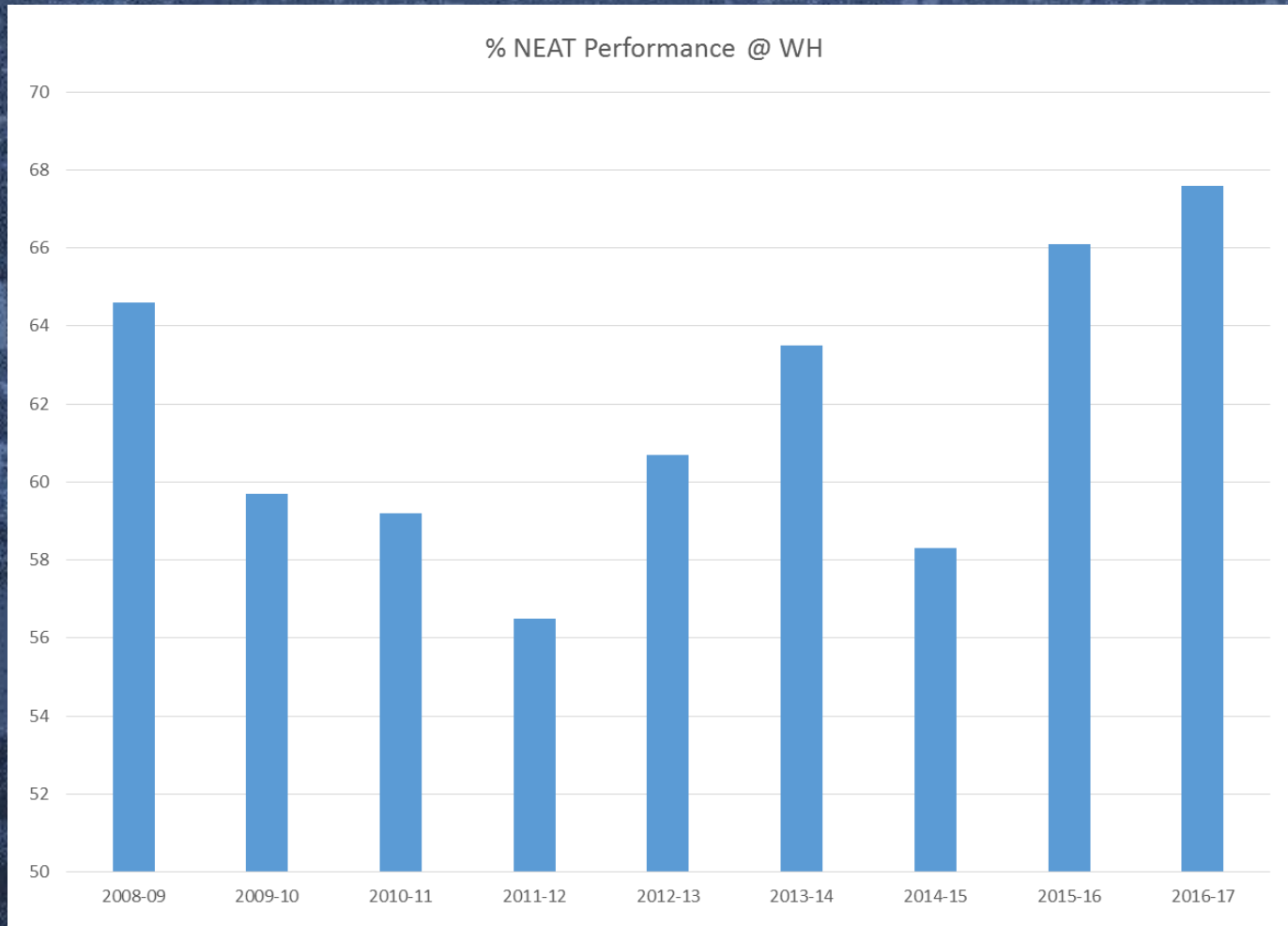
Relative stay index at Scorpio2 fell to 83% in the latest period



# Average length of stay

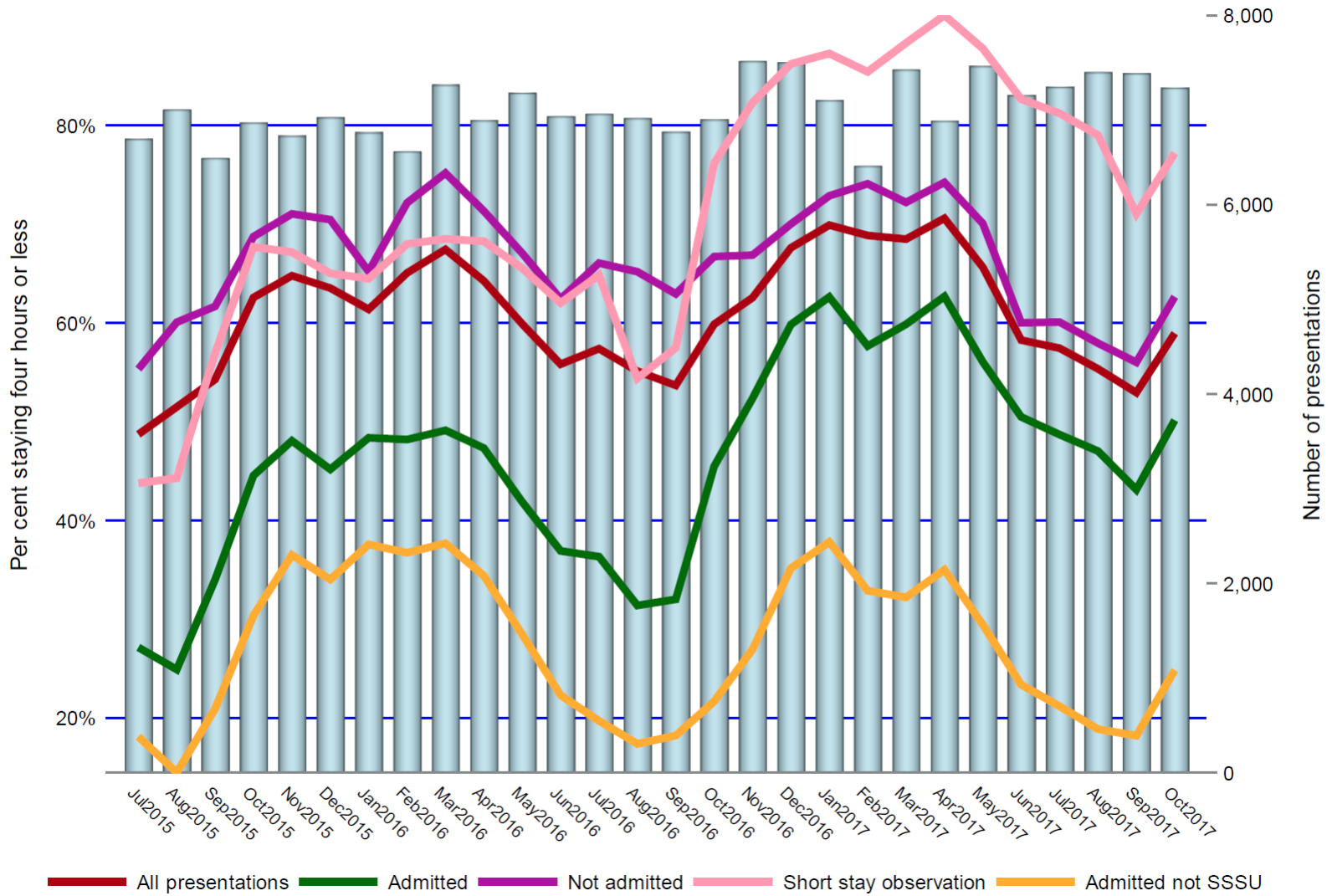


# NEAT performance at Western Health



# Sunshine Hospital

Number of presentations and the percentage of different cohorts staying four hours or less in the ED



# Tackling patient flow on other fronts

## \*Margaret's story

- A 72 year old patient who suffered from CHF, COPD, CKD, depression, PTSD, gout, chronic back pain, left shoulder replacement, hyper cholesterol, previous alcohol abuse with early cirrhosis and recurrent falls.
- On 23 medications.
- Nine Western Health admissions between Apr-Nov 2013
- A total of 15 referral notes had been made in her records throughout that time, but not one had been followed through
- We knew we were failing many more \*Margarets

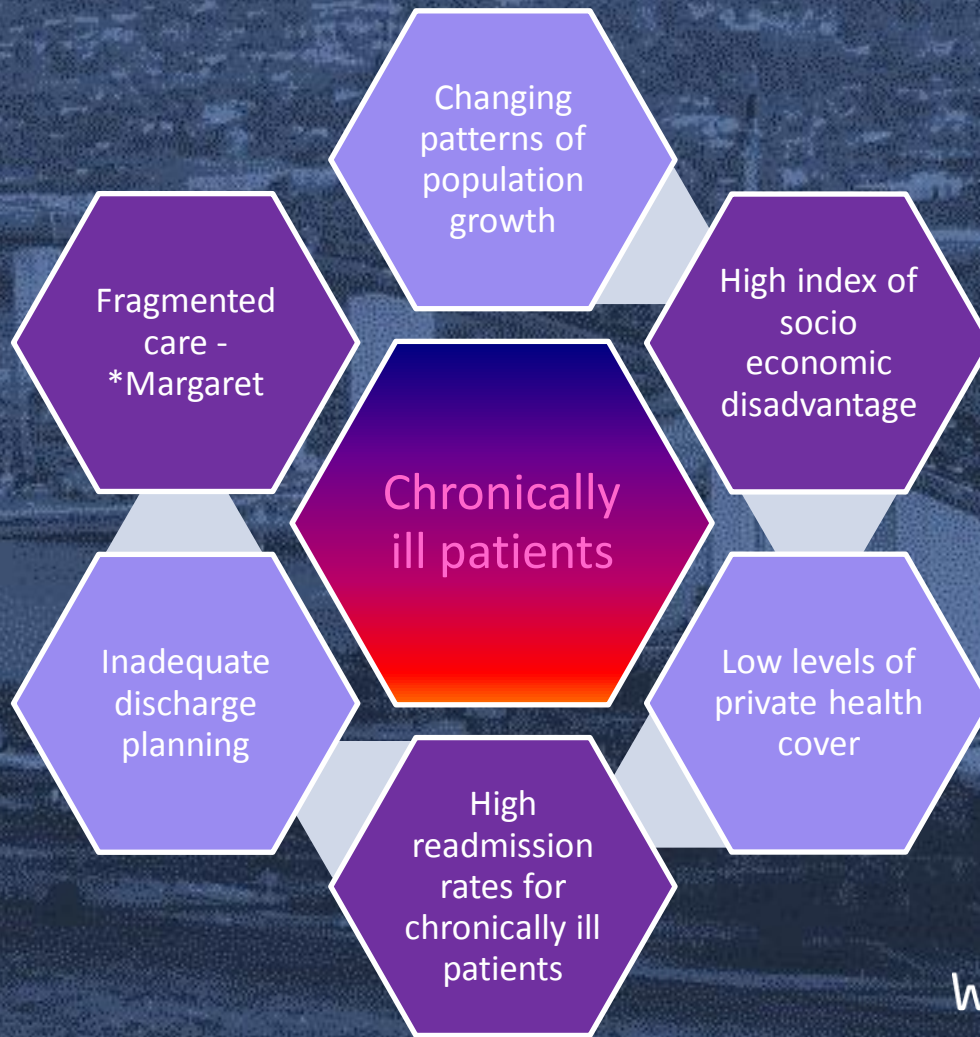
There had to be a better way.

*\*Margaret is a pseudonym. The circumstances were real.*



**“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they’re falling in.”**

# Key issues





# Baseline data

- 19-24% readmission rate for patients with chronic disease
- Only 30% of at risk patients identified and connected to supportive services
- Multiple case studies identified we failed to identify all high risk patients and provide integrated and supportive care
- Multiple studies indicating a high number of specialists seeing patients throughout their care episode and in the hour before their discharge
- Patient feedback: “Very confusing”; “Who do I call?”; “Unhelpful advice”

# Current Model and Gaps



# Standard funding model



# HealthLinks funding model



Copyright 2004 by Randy Glasbergen.  
www.glasbergen.com



**“I want you to find a bold and innovative way to do everything exactly the same way it’s been done for 25 years.”**

# A new approach

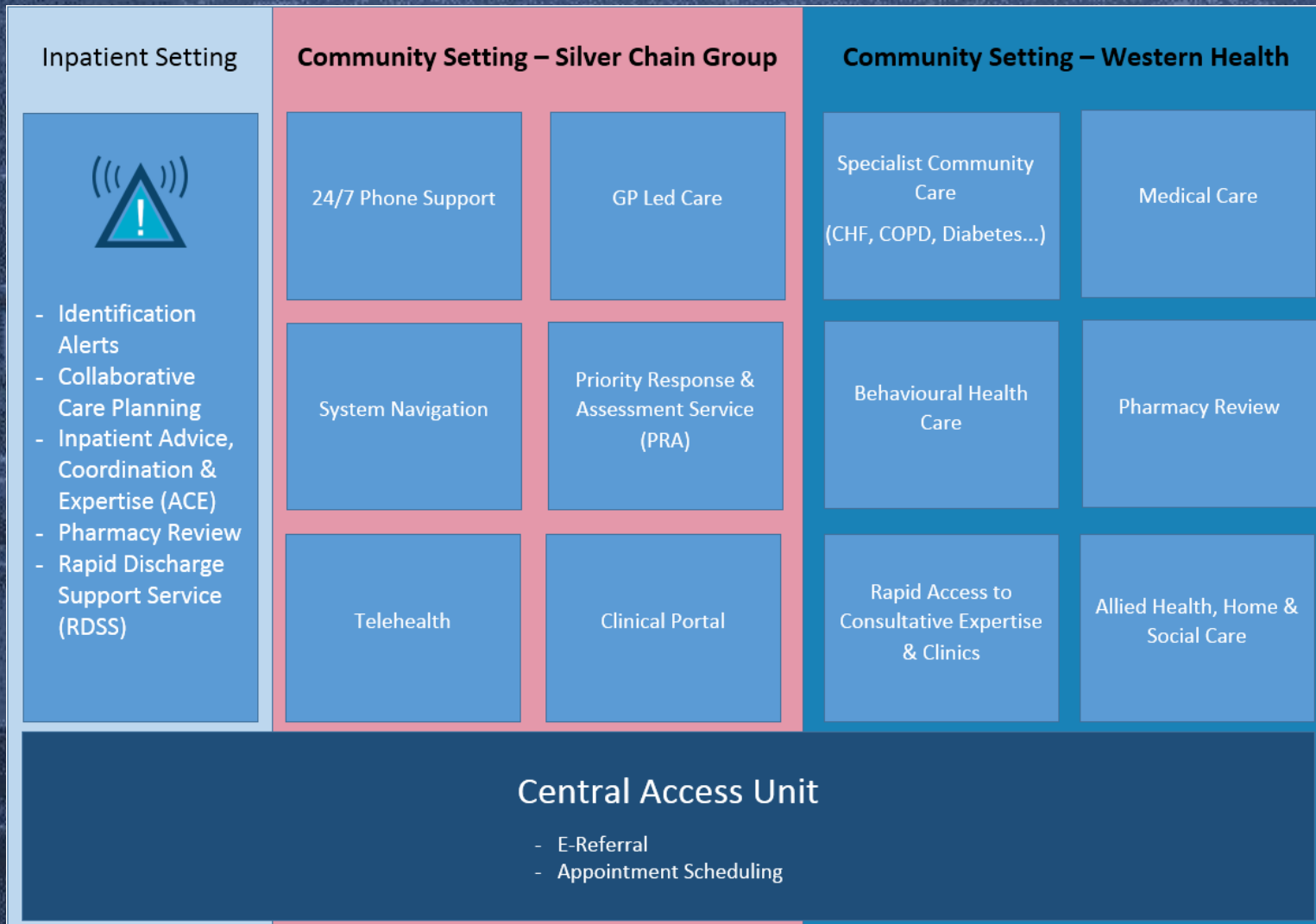
## WESTERN HEALTH LINKS

*Helping patients with complex and chronic conditions to stay at home*

A new approach by Western Health, with Silver Chain Group.



# Western HealthLinks – Model of Care



# Finding Margaret – essential changes

- Keeping track of Margaret as she comes in and goes out of hospital as we run an algorithm daily
- Created a multi-faceted identification system in our systems
- Inform care teams when Margaret has been admitted
- Identify Margaret within hospital using alerts on patient records
- Simplified community referral as one simple Needs based electronic referral form
- Changed care coordination approach



Clinical Portal WHS - S 3F Sunshine

All Units Filter by name or URN

| Team      | Bed/Rm     | H/L | Patient Name   | Unit/Dr            | LOS      | Diet Code | Flags |
|-----------|------------|-----|--|--------------------|----------|-----------|-------|
| Samara B. | B01<br>R01 |     | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Patient name<br/>URN #</div> | IMSC<br>Karunaj... | Day<br>7 | F         | 80y   |

HealthLinks Alerts

HealthLinks patient URN: 55555 has been discharged Date: 17/08/2017

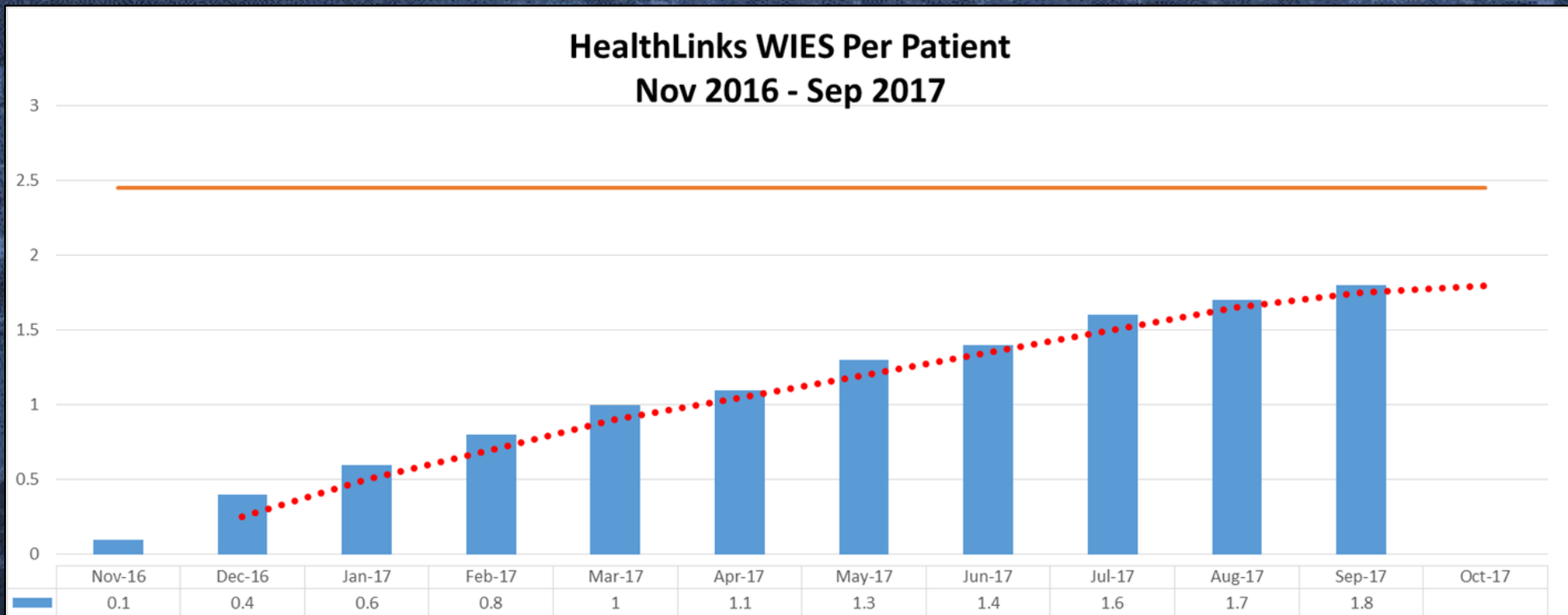
Page 3 of 3  
Printed By: Michelle McLeod  
Thursday 8/8/17 1:53 pm

**BOSSNET Tasklist -**

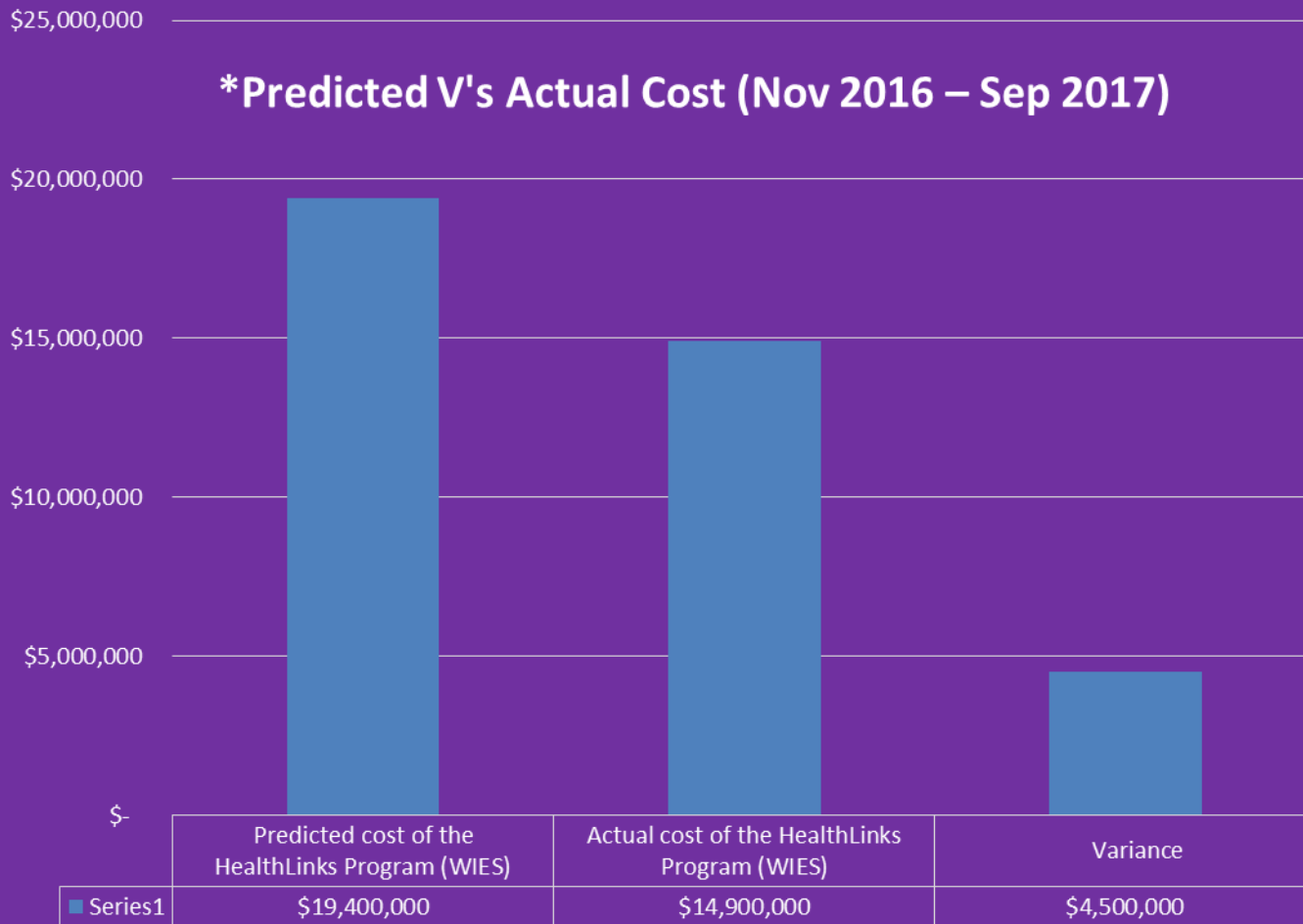
| Patient Details   | Notes  | Results       |
|---|--|---------------|
| <b>Patient Listing [19 patients]</b>  |  |               |
| <b>449619 Tisdale,</b><br>Day 1 Phyllis<br>90 yrs DOB 5/9/1926<br>Complete Heart Block  | Bed R21-32 Dr: Zakhem, DR Brian<br>DVT Risk: Not Done  | Ins: Medicare |
| <b>524357 Wilson,</b><br>Day 1 Jarna<br>37 yrs DOB 23/10/1979<br>CONGESTIVE CARDIAC FAILURE   | Bed 12-SICUDr: Wong, DR Chiew<br>DVT Risk: Not Done  | Ins: Medicare |
| <b>1540415 Pieterse,</b><br>Day 0 Edward<br>75 yrs DOB 31/12/1941<br>myocardial infarction, acute   | Bed R10-17 Dr: Wong, DR Chiew<br>DVT Risk: Not Done<br>(Eaton, S- 8/6) Edward Pieterse bed 17<br>75M p/w CCP<br># CPFI<br>GP -> trop -> 0.09<br>Out trop 0.05<br>Normal renal function<br>BG: 2002: CABG, Known to Dr Dav... Ecclestone, one yearly visits; HTN; Hypercholesterinaemia, T2D, GORD<br>Irregular pulse | Ins: Medicare |
| <b>1404903 Ambrogio,</b><br>Day 0 Tina<br>76 yrs DOB 17/3/1941<br>chest pain, nec   | Bed R13-23 Dr: Zakhem, DR Brian<br>DVT Risk: Not Done  | Ins: Medicare |
| <b>370076 McGowan,</b><br>Day 0 Antony Michael<br>68 yrs DOB 27/8/1948<br>Exacerbation  | Bed R14-25 Dr: Zakhem, DR Brian<br>DVT Risk: Not Done<br><span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">🚨 HealthLinks Enrolled</span>  | Ins: Medicare |
| <b>750582 Koia,</b><br>Day 0 Rongopai S<br>44 yrs DOB 23/5/1973<br>chest pain   | Bed R03-01 Dr: Zakhem, DR Brian<br>DVT Risk: Not Done  | Ins: Medicare |
| <b>970782 Tzanetos,</b><br>Day 0 Bella<br>45 yrs DOB 21/10/1971<br>Angina, unstable / Acute coronary syndro<br>me non ST elevation (non STEACS) | Bed R03-01 Dr: Wong, DR Chiew<br>DVT Risk: Not Done  | Ins: Medicare |

# Activity data

**HealthLinks WIES Per Patient  
Nov 2016 - Sep 2017**



# Predicted vs Actual Cost



\*Predicted cost = Predicted patients x their predicted cost

# Outcomes so far

- 25% more patients enrolled onto the program than anticipated
- 75% of Priority Response episodes resulted in the patient staying at home (90% would have otherwise attended ED)
- Lower 30 day readmission rate than projected
- Patient experience surveys for patients on the program >6 months highlighting marked improvement and highly positive patient experience
- The feedback provided by patients and carers is a motivating factor for the continuing refinement of the program.

# My key learnings / reflections

- We are moving to a “bottom up” approach, rather than top down
  - People who are working in the area are identifying the gaps and designing their own solutions
  - Providing coaching and support to staff
- Using improvement methodology to support change not Campaign based
- Clear air is a luxury !
- Change takes time to embed and often we are very impatient!

Thank you

# Best Care at Western Health



We will demonstrate the Western Health values in all that we do...  
compassion, accountability, respect, excellence, safety



## Patients

TO RECEIVE BEST CARE...

It is important to my family and I that:

1. I am seen and treated as a person
2. I receive help, treatment and information when I need it & in a co-ordinated way
3. I receive care that makes me feel better
4. I feel safe



## Front Line Staff

TO PROVIDE BEST CARE...

1. I communicate with patients and their families and am sensitive to their needs & preferences
2. I am an active team player and look for ways to do things better
3. I am confident in what I do and motivated to provide the best care and services possible
4. I keep patients from harm



## Managers & Senior Clinicians

TO LEAD BEST CARE...

1. I engage with and put patients first when making decisions
2. I look for ways to support staff to work efficiently and as part of a team
3. I guide, engage and support staff to provide best clinical care
4. I promote a culture of safety



## Executive & Board

TO LEAD BEST CARE...

I oversee the development, implementation and ongoing improvement of organisation-wide systems supporting Best Care

