

Your Reference: A5670749

5 July 2024

Ms Marina Bowshall
Interim Chief Executive
Preventive Health SA
PO Box 388 Rundle Mall
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Bowshall

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT PREVENTIVE HEALTH SA BILL 2024

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to consultation on the draft Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 (the Bill). I am pleased to provide the following response on behalf of Healthway.

Firstly, Healthway commends the SA Government on drafting legislation to strengthen and protect preventive health and by establishing Preventive Health SA as a single agency dedicated to this objective.

It is particularly pleasing to see attention given to protecting the independence of the CEO for Preventive Health SA which is critical for the agency to perform its functions well and provide positive benefits to the community (items 7(1)(j), 8(1), 8(2) and 8(3)). Similarly, ensuring that the work of the Preventive Health SA Council (the Council) is free from commercial interests or influence is an important inclusion in the draft Bill (item 12(4)).

Another progressive aspect of the Bill is item 7(3) which clearly provides for consideration for preventive health to occur across government in consultation with the CEO and enables collaborative preventive health across government and non-government agencies. Multisectoral action has never been more important to protect and enable health and wellbeing, and to address health inequities.

Consideration could be given to increasing the minimum number of meetings between the CEO, Chair of the Council, and the Minister for Health up from two per year to maintain a high level of Ministerial engagement and support (item 16(2)). Given the relatively small minimum size of the proposed Council (six members in addition to the CEO) consideration could also be given to decreasing the maximum number of nine years that an individual may serve on the Council (item 13(2)).

The objects of the draft Bill align well with Healthway's priorities for the next five years, which are detailed in its [Strategic Plan 2024-2029: Creating a Healthier Western Australia Together](#).

Congratulations again on drafting this important legislation. The draft Bill has been thoughtfully worded and is therefore, likely to ensure that prevention remains an important and permanent structure of the health system in SA.

Should you wish to discuss aspects of Healthway's response further, please do not hesitate to contact Healthway's A/Executive Director, Joanne Graham-Smith, on 9488 6703 or email Joanne.Graham-Smith@healthway.wa.gov.au

We look forward to continuing our close and collaborative relationship with Preventive Health SA.

Yours sincerely



Colin Smith
Chief Executive Officer