

HCA - SACOSS Whose health is it anyway?

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Summary

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Health Complaints Commissioner comments:

- it is timely to revisit & reinvigorate The Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion first endorsed in November 1986 <http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/previous/ottawa/en/index.html> to address inequalities in health - access, experience and outcomes
- the statutory HCSCC Charter of Health and Community Services Rights will be *one* lever to enable individuals to assert and claim rights that could improve their individual access to, experience of and outcomes from, health services - potential for individual impact & leverage
- HCSCC's application of the HCSCC Charter could lead to recurrent and systemic shortcomings that impact on access, experience and outcomes being raised, investigated and acted on - potential for systemic impact & leverage
- the HCSCC Charter will be available at www.hcsc.sa.gov.au after endorsement by the SA Parliament, anticipated in late 2010
- the health system is designed to be socially unjust and inequitable - access, experiences & outcomes
- there is potential to redesign the health system and health services to be more just & equitable but NB powerful, dominant interests are being served by maintaining the status quo e.g. private health insurance incentives
- dominant approaches to risk in the health system are medical and managerial/corporate, whereas the risks of inequity are obscured &/or not calculated & no one is held to account for them
- there are significant conflicts that need to be resolved with intelligence and compassion especially:
 - between individual needs & rights and the public interest in equitable health services - even supporters of a more equitable system assert my experience counts
 - between evidence based treatment and population health
- significant potential could be realized if we thought of people who seek health care and people who provide it as co-producers of health & worked to strengthen the capabilities of both - for example: through health literacy