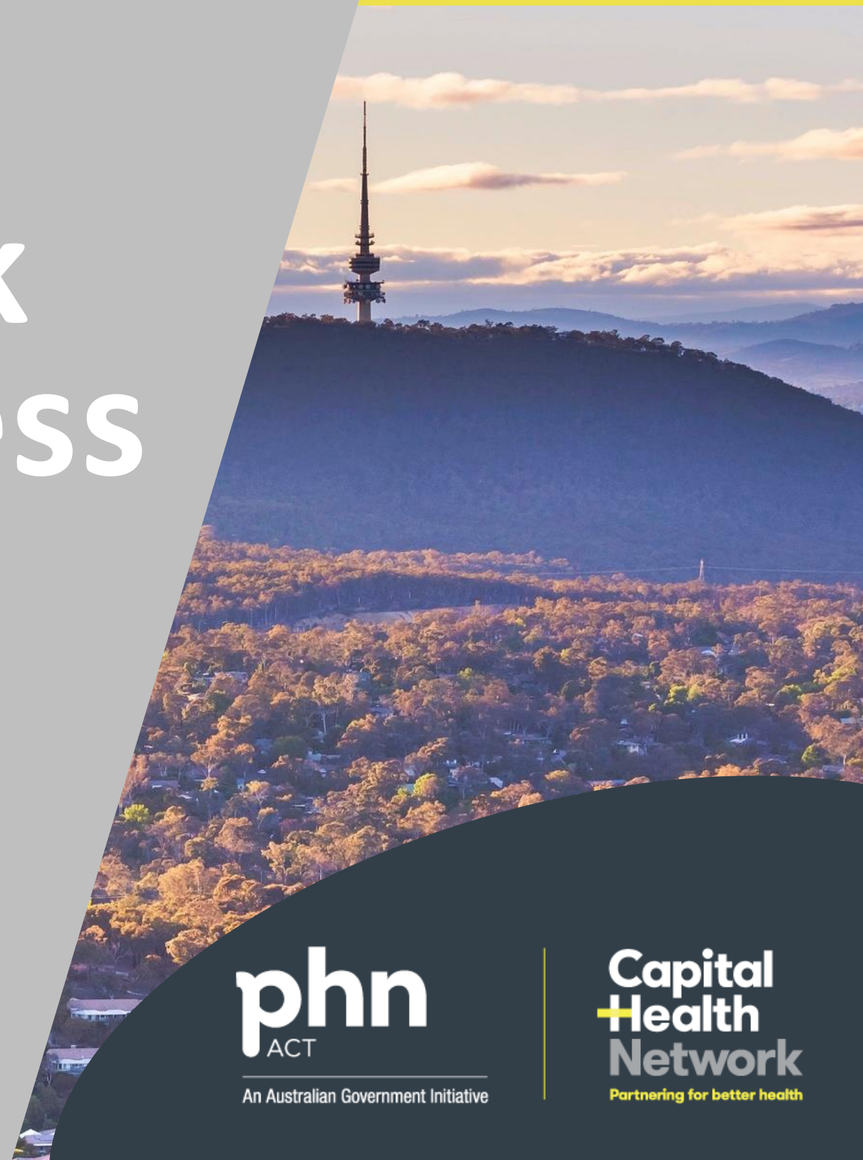
Capital Health Network Emergency Preparedness

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Objectives

The presentation objectives are to:

1. Improve the understanding of CHN's role and capabilities in supporting emergency preparedness, response and recovery

2. Identify future capabilities, next steps and opportunities to align with ACT Health plans and priorities



Role of PHNs in emergency preparedness and response

The primary objectives of Primary Health Networks (PHN) in health emergency planning and preparedness, as per PHN Core Funding agreements, include:

Coordinate

Support and coordinate the primary care contribution to health emergency preparedness and coordination processes to identify primary health needs and build preparedness and resilience.

Build Capacity

Assist local primary care providers in emergency planning, response and recovery.

Continuity of Access

Make plans to support local primary care providers continuing to operate during emergencies e.g. by arranging alternative premises

Role of PHNs in emergency preparedness and response

PHNs are expected to undertake activities in collaboration with and guided by State/Territory emergency plans.

Activities may include, for example:

- Emergency preparedness communications
- Plan for infectious disease scenarios and scenario training with the sector
- Plan for climate-related disaster scenarios and scenario training with the sector
- Identify workforce capacity, such as surge workforce
- Standing up additional services in an emergency
- Monitoring service capacity during an emergency
- Monitoring preparedness such as practice readiness audits
- Education and training

Capital Health Network's Role

CHN recently engaged with our 3 Advisory Councils – Clinical Council, General Practice Advisory Council, and Community Council - to identify priorities for CHN with regard to emergency preparedness and response.



Councils emphasised importance of coordinated activity that complements and supports ACT Government-led responses.

Key activities for CHN in emergency planning identified include:

- Communications to primary care health sector
- Supporting the primary care sector and broader health sector in identifying people and strategies for proactively engaging e.g. significant heat wave - working with practices to identify at risk patients using data systems and recall.
- Monitoring and understanding capacity of primary care services and workforce during an emergency
- Supporting business continuity planning and response across primary care
- Collecting information from primary care stakeholders and feed back to ACT HCSD and Commonwealth Government.

Current capacity and capability: Primary Care Engagement and Communication

CHN's Quality Improvement Team can:



Support communications to health professionals to disseminate public health and clinical updates

Coordinate communication and engagement with general practice, pharmacy, residential aged care homes and allied health

Coordinate education, webinars and events with primary health professionals and stakeholders

Coordinate and support vaccination programs, PPE delivery, workforce support

Coordinate and deliver post-event supports such as mental health support for health professionals and business continuity support

Current capacity and capability: HealthPathways



Leveraging the HealthPathways platform, CHN is able to provide up-to-date clinical guidance and information on referral pathways before, during and after emergencies. HealthPathways can:

- Be responsive to local needs including localised referral pathways while drawing upon national subject matter expertise
- Help to ensure that GPs and allied health professionals have access to current, evidence-based care instructions for disaster and related clinical conditions
- Disseminate clinical updates and alerts
- Support cross-border response arrangements with SENSW, as HealthPathways is a joint program with Coordinare (SENSW PHN).

For more information: www.chnact.org.au/for-health-professionals/healthpathways

Community HealthPathways
ACT and SNSW

Current capacity and capability: Commissioning

CHN can support emergency response through commissioning such as:

- Ability to engage with our commissioned service providers to surge/increase capacity in response to emergencies
- Grants and commissioning processes that can be activated for emergency-specific funding
- Monitoring capacity and demand on NGO health sector during emergencies.



Current capacity and capability: Primary Care Emergency Response Committee

The ACT Primary Care Emergency Response Committee (ACT PCERC) was formed in 2019 in the context of ACT/SENSW bushfire emergency and continued to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic. CHN provides secretariat and coordination support to the ACT PCERC.



ACT PCERC purpose

- Be involved in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to emergencies and disasters.
- Facilitate communication between the primary care sector, public health and clinical emergency response efforts.
- Promote the effective utilisation of primary care clinicians in local emergency responses.

More information: www.chnact.org.au/for-health-professionals/primary-care-support-2/health-emergencies

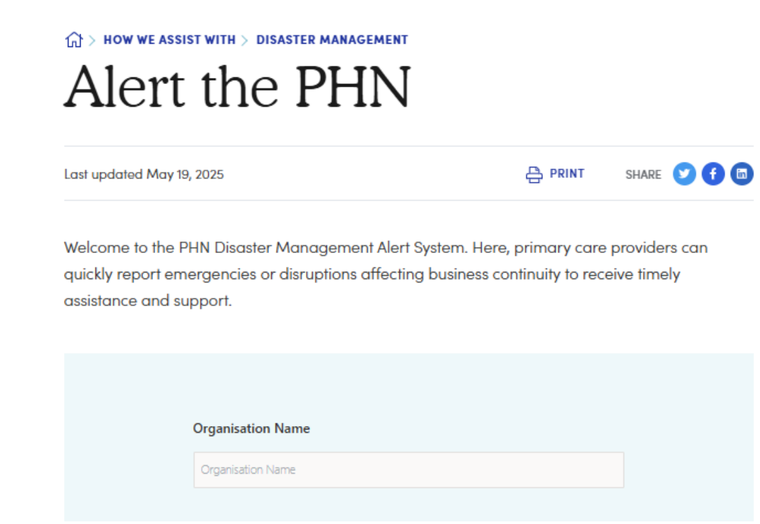
Leveraging the PHN Network

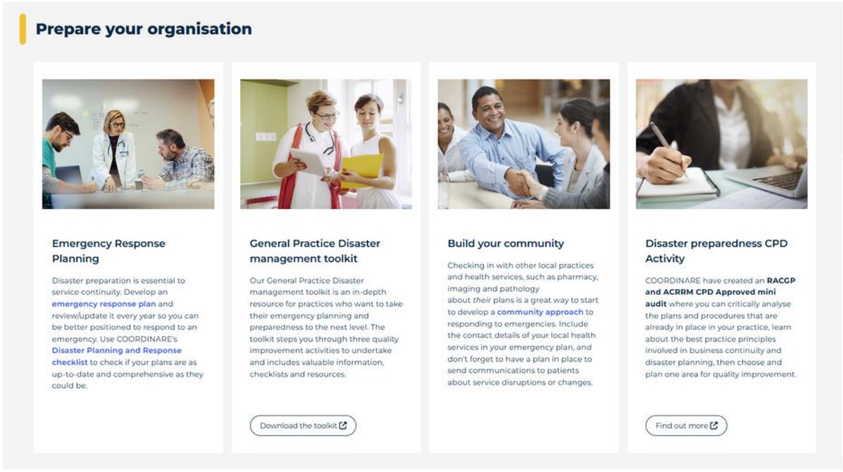
CHN is part of a broader network of PHNs that we draw upon to plan and share learnings:

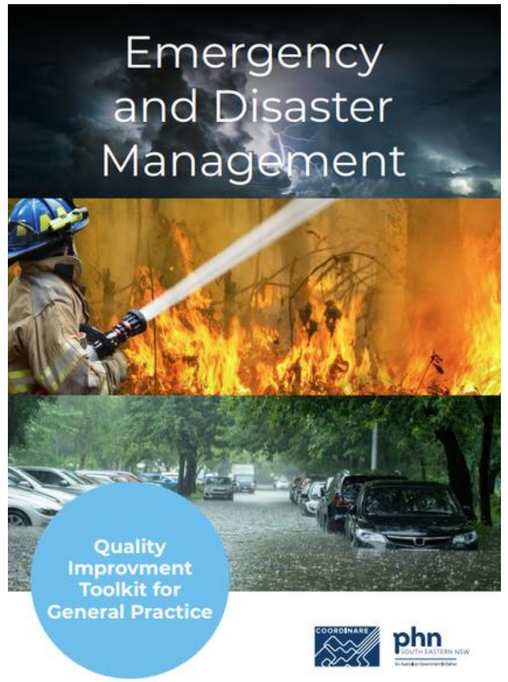
Sharing resources

Joint HealthPathways Development

Communities of Practice









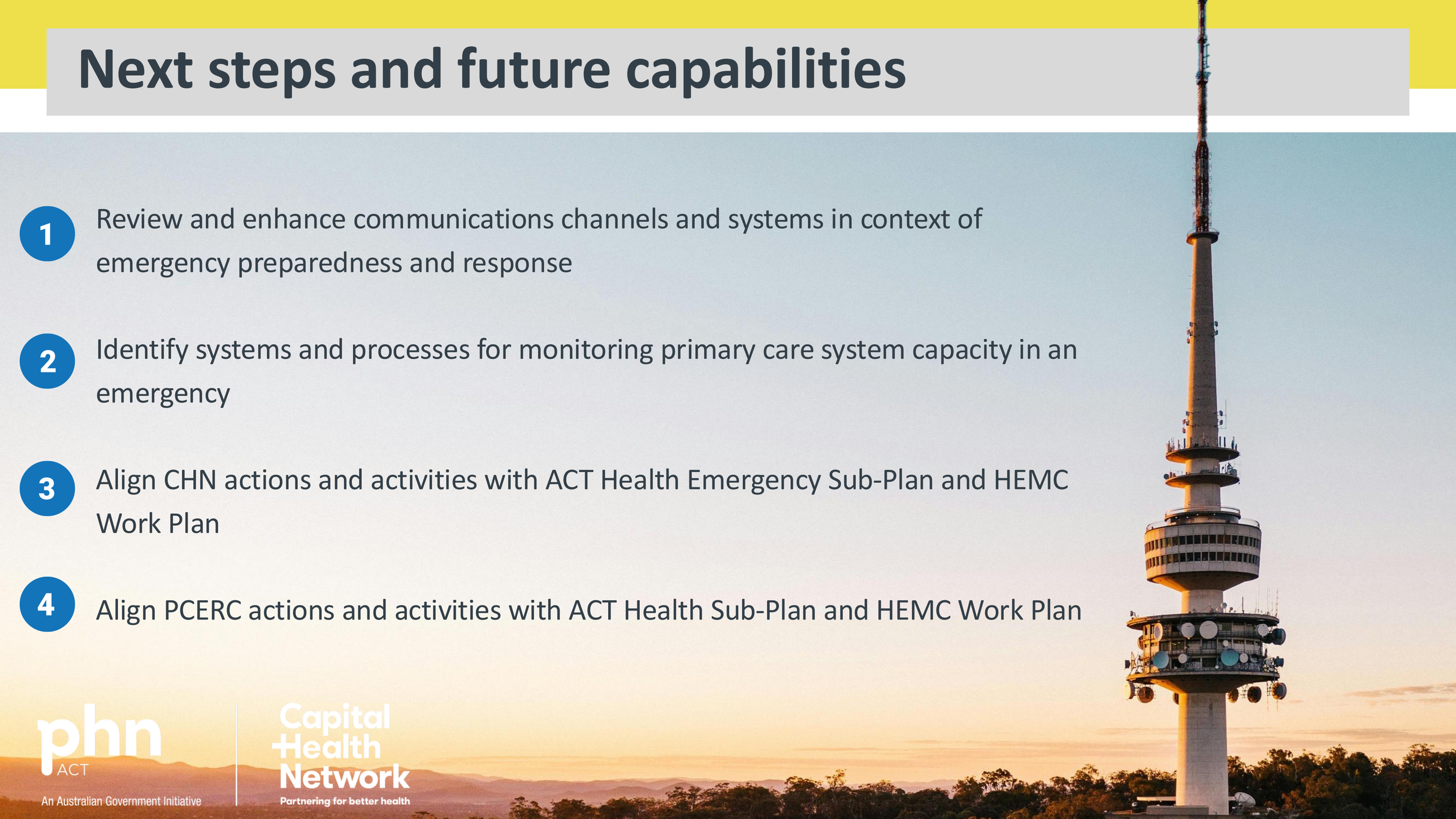
Next steps and future capabilities

1. Review and enhance communications channels and systems in context of emergency preparedness and response

2. Identify systems and processes for monitoring primary care system capacity in an emergency

3. Align CHN actions and activities with ACT Health Emergency Sub-Plan and HEMC Work Plan

4. Align PCERC actions and activities with ACT Health Sub-Plan and HEMC Work Plan



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Proposed work plan for PCERC-TBC

Proposed approach:

3 meetings per year, with option to stand-up more regularly in an emergency



Standing agenda:

1. Public health update
   2. Strategic discussion on key priority topics aligning with HEMC work plan or CHN priorities such as:

- Systems and data for monitoring primary care capacity in an emergency
- Communication channels
- Role of primary care in heat waves,
- Seasonal preparedness
- Available trainings and resources.

3. Lessons learned/after action events
4. Sector updates
5. Other business/emerging issues