

# Key Messages

## Productivity Commission Review of the National MH&SP Agreement

Adelaide PHN

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### Key Issues Identified:

- Adelaide PHNs has very limited engagement with the parties regarding the planning and implementation of the bi-lateral agreement.
- The SA bi-lateral agreement was the first to be signed and was inconsistent with majority of the other Bi-Lateral agreements.
- Re-negotiation of the Bi-lateral agreement in South Australia resulted in a lot of uncertainty regarding activities and PHN involvement in activities
- Within the activities of the Bi-lateral where the PHN has been involved in the commissioning the timeframes of the PHN (set by the Cwlth) do not line up with timelines outlined by the State. This causes a misalignment of priorities in direction, inefficiencies and challenges regarding implementation. In addition, it creates significant underspends that the PHN becomes responsible for managing.
- There have been significant delays as a result of the South Australian Bi-Lateral agreement which has resulted in financial risk to the PHN, eg. Cwlth AfterCare funding has not been provided to the PHN since the 23-24 financial year despite the PHN needing to continue to commission the provider in 24-25.
- The PHN often provides data to inform location of services, if it were involved in the planning and negotiations this could be a much more efficient and straightforward process resulting in services making their way to the community sooner.
- The delays in the South Australian Bi-lateral agreement have resulted in schedules for service not having made their way to PHNs eg AfterCare. This limits the level and type of commissioning (unable to co-design and do large approaches to market) the PHNs can undertake due to timeframes and duration of the agreement eg. Bilateral agreement is ending June 30 2026, PHN does not have the schedule at the time of writing this document. In addition, this approach causes reputation by risk to the PHN by needing to manage significant and unsustainable funding buckets in a short period of time.
- A number of initiatives in the Bi-lateral are only Cwlth funded not co-funded, creating further confusion regarding accountability, roles, responsibility and expectations.