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BACKGROUND

The Cancer Institute NSW has embraced the benefits of clinical networks to support the provision of coordinated cancer services and has been successful in being funded by Cancer Australia to develop a clinical network for Gynaecological Cancer in NSW as part of the Gynaecological Cancers Workforce Initiative.

The evaluation of the development of the Northern NSW Cancer Network, funded under the Cancer Australia CanNET program, demonstrated the importance of the initial planning phase in ensuring the success of a clinical network program.

METHOD

Program logic, a planning and evaluation methodology, was employed to guide the development of the Gynaecological Cancer Clinical Networks program plan.

Step 1. An overarching Cancer Clinical Networks program logic was workshopped to cover the development of all cancer networks projects.

In addition to the Gynaecological Cancer Clinical Networks Project, the Cancer Institute NSW is also involved in the development of Cancer Clinical Networks under the CanNET 2 program and the Commonwealth Youth Cancer Network Measure. It is essential that these projects are based on an identical program logic to ensure consistencies and maximise synergies.

Step 2. A gynaecological cancer clinical network program logic was developed based on the overarching cancer clinical networks program logic.

Step 3. A state wide gap analysis was undertaken to identify the progress or gaps in activities that were identified in the Program Logic as being required for the optimal implementation of a clinical networks program.

Step 4. A project plan was developed that focused on the gaps identified and enabled the project to build upon previous work undertaken by services and organisations working in the area of gynaecological cancers.

CONCLUSION

Employment of program logic methodology and a gap analysis enabled a comprehensive project plan to be developed that:

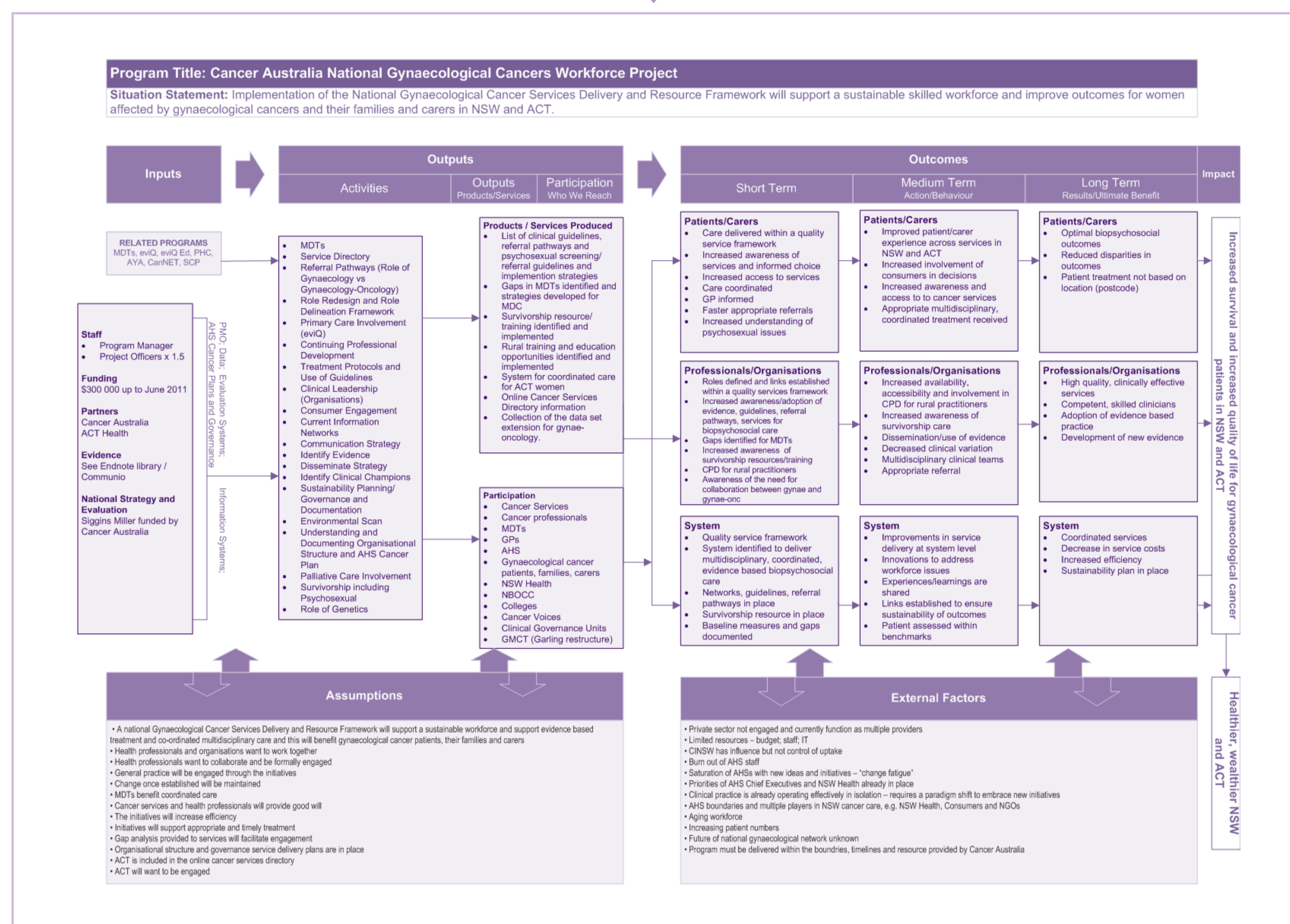
1. Ensured all building blocks required for the success of the cancer clinical network program were in place.
2. Prevented duplication of activities currently underway or in place.
3. Enabled previously completed activities to be enhanced.
4. Facilitated stakeholder involvement.
5. Ensured all involved in the project had a clear understanding of the expected outcomes of the project.
6. Provided a platform for the development of a project evaluation that is realistic and effective.

The evaluation of previous projects designed to develop clinical networks established that the initial planning phase for the development of a clinical network is crucial to program success.

The use of Program Logic and a related gap analysis has been found to be successful in guiding the planning phase of the Gynaecological Cancer Clinical Network Project and facilitating stakeholder buy in.

RESULTS

Cancer Clinical Networks Program Logic



Evaluation Plan

Gynaecological Cancer Clinical Networks Gap Analysis

Themed Analysis of Gaps

- Lack of awareness of the wide range of resources for clinicians that are already available. Opportunities exist to partner with key organisations to contribute to raise awareness and promote these resources.
- Inconsistency and multiple sources of patient information was identified and provides an opportunity to synthesise information and gain greater consistency across resources.
- A number of new clinical resources for both clinicians and patients are currently under development or newly developed. Opportunities exist to partner with key organisations to contribute to the dissemination and evaluation of these resources.
- Communication, particularly in terms of continuity of care and the interface between specialist and primary care, was highlighted as a major gap
- Lack of confidence and skills around the provision of psychosocial, psychosocial and survivorship care a key gap.
- Inequities in regard to access to appropriate care was identified as a significant gap and the further development of referral pathways was identified as a priority.

Comprehensive Project Plan