

What does the health and social services reform mean for me?

Health and social services in 2019,
according to draft government
proposal

11/2016

The health and social services reform

- It is a total reform of the public health and social services in Finland. The central government and municipalities will implement the reform. They will also inform people openly about forthcoming changes.
- At the moment the municipalities are responsible for organising health and social services. This responsibility will be transferred to 18 new counties on 1 January 2019.
- The county will safeguard that services are equally available to all people.
- You will still get local services where you live.



Wide range of health and social services

Health and social services are services the state finances through tax revenue. In future the counties will be organising all public health and social services.

- outpatient services
- hospital services
- oral health services
- mental health and substance abuse services
- maternity and child health clinics
- social work for adults
- child protection
- services for people with disabilities
- housing services for older people
- home care
- transportation service
- environmental health services



We need the reform because



- the ageing population needs a variety of more individual services
- at present people do not have equal access to health and social services across the country

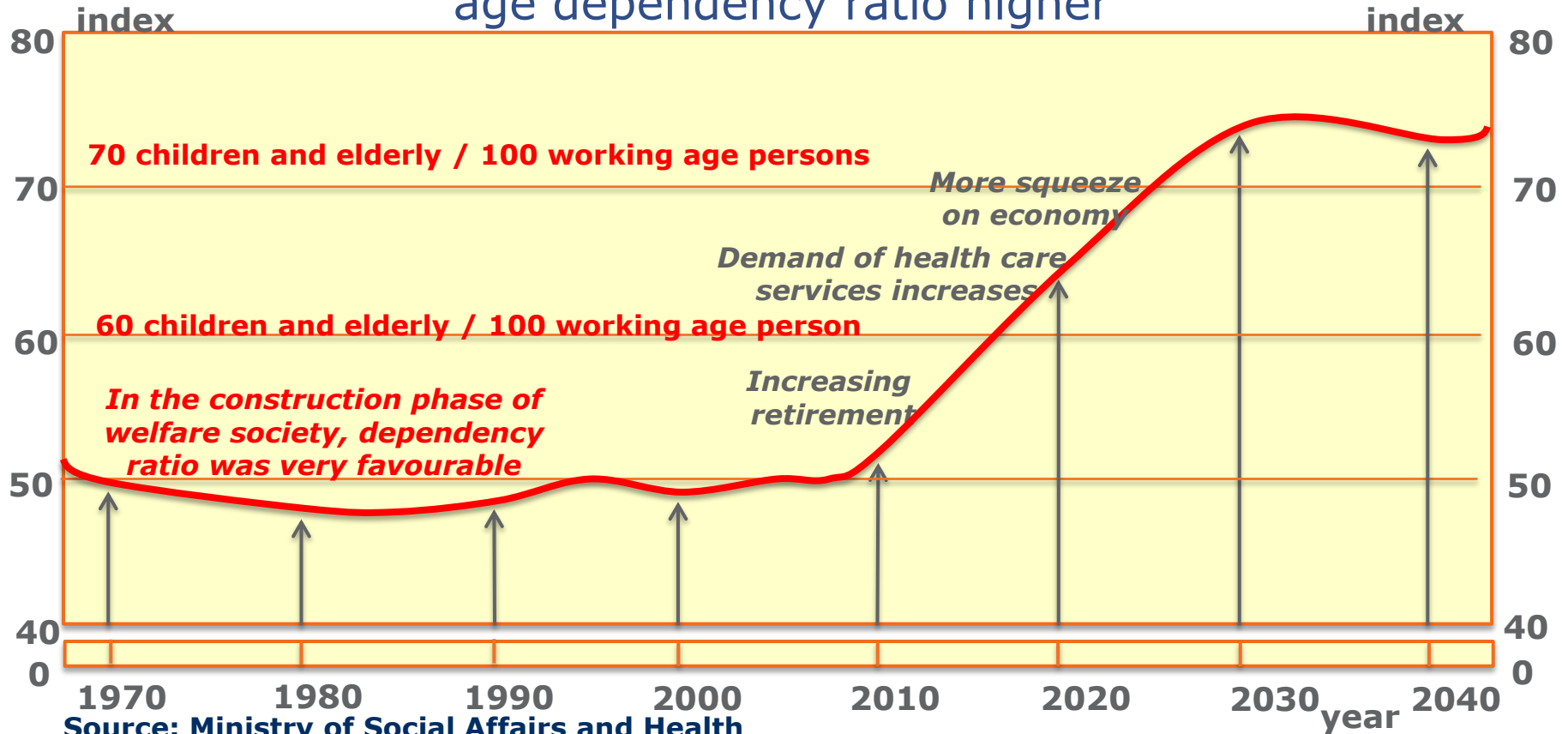


- health and social services have inefficient practices, and new good practices should be introduced across the country
- digital services are scarce and more are needed



- the economic situation is difficult and the public sector debt is increasing
- services are financed through tax revenue, which is declining
- at the same time the cost of health and social services is increasing

Population is getting older and age dependency ratio higher



Jari Partanen

Services, health and equality as goals

Services will be more modern

- The reform will safeguard services for people even in future.
- Health and social services will use the most efficient and effective practices.
- Funding for health and social services will not go down from the current level. Services will be reformed so as to curb the growth of costs.

Inequalities in health and wellbeing will be reduced

- All population groups will have better health and wellbeing throughout Finland.



People will have equal access to services

- Everyone will have equal opportunities to get the health and social services required by law.
- Everyone will have the right to receive services of equally high quality.

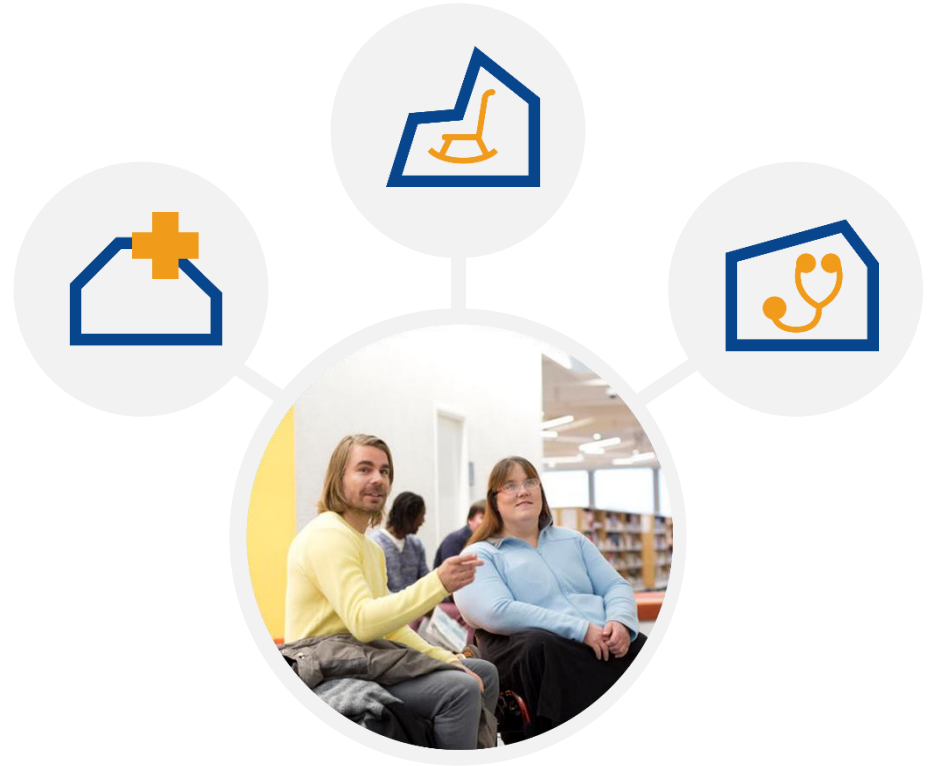
Services will be more individual



- The intention is to reform health and social services so that services will be offered according to your needs when you need them. In this way it will be easier for you to get help.
- Health and social services will be integrated into well-functioning packages. Waiting times will be shorter than before because services and care pathways are smoother. You will have faster access to doctors and other services.
- Your client information will be transferred efficiently between services.

Freedom of choice will improve access to services

- You will have a wider range of health and social services from which to choose. You can choose a public, private or third sector provider when the service is included in the scope of freedom of choice. The fee will be the same.
- You will have more freedom of choice when it comes to appointments with nurses and doctors and social services guidance. You can also choose your dental clinic.
- If you are receiving home services you can get a service voucher and decide which service provider you want to use.



You can get help to choose services

- You can get help and support to choose the health and social services that suit you.
- There is an online service with information that helps you compare different service providers. You can also contact a helpline or a service adviser.
- If you don't want to choose the service yourself, experts at the county's service utility will guide you to a suitable service.



Local services will be more versatile

There will be new kinds of local services in addition to the health and social services provided by health centres and other service units.

For example:



There will be a wider range of digital services and guidance available to support your wellbeing. You can book appointments or ask advice online. You can even consult a doctor or a social worker online.



Family workers can visit you at home. Older people as well can get help and services at home. You can even get emergency medical care at home.



Mobile services, such as mobile vaccination clinics, will come close to you.

Division of responsibilities between municipalities, counties and central government

MUNICIPALITIES



Communities of local participation, democracy and vitality, which handle autonomous duties decided by residents as well as statutory local duties.

- Knowledge and education
- Health and wellbeing
- Sports and culture
- Youth services
- Local business policy
- Land use and construction

COUNTIES



- Health and social services
- Rescue services
- Environmental healthcare
- Regional development
- Steering of land use and construction

- Employment and business services
- Transport system planning and regional planning of public transport
- Rural development and relief services

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT



- Maintaining and developing rule of law
- Safeguarding and evaluating fundamental rights

- Security duties
- National and international duties
- General advocacy

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Clients' language rights

- As a client you have the right to use Finnish or Swedish as well as to be heard and receive documents in administrative matters in Finnish or Swedish.
- Sometimes a client and personnel do not have a common language. In such cases the personnel must ensure that they hear your views and that you understand how help will be organised.



Urgent care and support

- There will be 12 hospitals that provide specialised medical care around the clock. This will safeguard a high level of skills and quality in the care you receive. Most of us need these kinds of services, such as demanding surgeries and tests, only rarely, maybe once in our lifetime.
- Central hospitals will continue to provide 24-hour services in the specialties in most demand. Social services too will be provided around the clock.
- Waiting times for 24-hour services will be reduced. There will be more late evening and weekend appointments available in the health and social services centres.



You can influence health and social services



- The county will be responsible for providing people the opportunity to participate in the improvement of health and social services.
- You can participate in client panels, youth councils, disability councils or councils for older people, for example.

Public service pledge

- The county will give a public service pledge to the residents in its area. The pledge will specify what services the country will organise.
- The county must also report on whether services are implemented in accordance with the pledge.



Thank you!
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