

MEDIA RELEASE:

Making local health a priority

Embargo: Midnight Tuesday 7 February

Loddon and Gannawarra Shire residents and the health services that serve them will soon have a greater understanding of the key local health issues and service delivery challenges.

Twelve health and community organisations have joined together to create the Loddon Gannawarra Health Services Executive Network (LGHSEN). The Network has now completed the 206-page Loddon Gannawarra Health Needs Analysis, which identifies diabetes, heart, oral and mental health as the major health issues faced by the community.

The detailed analysis reveals some alarming statistics, with heart attack rates 2.5 times higher in Loddon than the state average, an aging population across the region, and dental health conditions being the number one potentially preventable condition for hospital admissions in Gannawarra. It highlights the need to focus on client-centred and place-based service delivery, to examine gaps and barriers to high quality care and to determine where services need to be developed or remodelled.

The full Health Needs Analysis will officially be released at 11am on Wednesday 8 February at the Dingee Bush Nursing Centre.

Kerang District Health Chief Executive Officer and LGHSEN Chair, Robert Jarman said “client centred approaches to service delivery, aim to provide greater choice and control over how services are delivered.”

“The Health Needs Analysis makes a number of recommendations about prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery, and health system changes, which the Executive Officers of the Network have endorsed and are committed to implement.” said Robert Jarman

Murray PHN CEO Matt Jones said “Murray PHN is focused on tackling health inequities in the areas of greatest need; not only to optimise system reforms but to monitor improvement in health outcomes for whole populations,” he said. “Service system reform needs strong, collaborative and well informed partnerships, so we’re really pleased to be part of this Network and working to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents”.

The LGHSEN members are Kerang District Health, Northern District Community Health Services, Cohuna District Health, Mallee District Aboriginal Services, Gannawarra and Loddon Shire Councils, Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership, Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership, Boort District Health, Inglewood and Districts Health Services, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre and Murray PHN (Primary Health Network).

**This project has been supported by the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria*

Contact details

Media are asked to set-up at Dingee Bush Nursing Centre by 10.45am.

For further details, or to request an interview contact Jackie Grant, Communications Coordinator e: jgrant@murrayphn.org.au t: 03 4408 5613 or m: 0472 842 066

or Robert Jarman, CEO of Kerang District Health Services e: Robert.jarman@kerhosp.vic.gov.au t: 03 5450 9203