

MEDIA RELEASE

New funding for heart and lung diseases

Thursday 19 October 2017

Murray PHN today announced almost \$3 million in funding for chronic heart and lung disease services across central and northern Victoria.

Bendigo Health Care Group, Swan Hill District Health, Cobaw Community Health, Alpine Health and Robinvale District Health Service are among a range of local organisations receiving grants of more than \$80,000 to invest in pulmonary and cardiac rehabilitation clinics, improve quality of chronic illness care and help develop the primary health workforce.

Additionally, Lung Foundation Australia will implement a workforce training and development program with 14 health services across our region, integrate treatment plans in general practice and trial a new model of pulmonary exercise programs in central Victoria.

Other successful tenders include:

Sunraysia Community Health Services	Northern District Community Health Service
North East General Practice Services	Primary Care Connect
Northeast Health Wangaratta	Numurkah District Health Service

The 12 successful tenderers will carry out their work through partnerships with more than 50 rural and regional hospitals, health services, GP practices, universities and peak bodies.

Murray PHN executive director Penny Wilkinson said the process of collaborative dialogue was aimed at system improvement and the creation of partnerships and networks that will increase capacity across the region.

“Our role is to help strengthen the health system in our region and to work towards equity and best practice models of care in the management of chronic illness,” she said.

“We know that respiratory and cardiovascular diseases affect more than 40,000 people in our region. Combined, they cause more than 4,000 avoidable hospital admissions each year, and more than 200 avoidable deaths.”

Murray PHN will continue to support all health service providers with extensive localised population health information, helping them to target disease hotspots and tailor resources relative to local need.

Matt Jones, Murray PHN CEO, thanked all the health services and organisations that submitted proposals.

“We were delighted with the number and quality of the proposals we received,” said Matt Jones, Murray PHN CEO. “Our challenge was that these proposals totalled \$6.35 million, compared with a total pool of \$2.7 million to support the management of chronic disease.

“Subject to contracts being finalised, services will begin before the end of this year,” he said.

The current round of funding will:

- Establish or strengthen community based programs and clinics that improve access to cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation clinics.

- Expand and develop the health workforce Investment, information management systems and improvements within general practice.

Mr Jones said Murray PHN's total investment in chronic care and mental health funding had increased from \$13m in 16/17 to \$14m in 17/18.

"In the current round of commissioning, we are trialling a range of proposals in projects that, if successful, will be applied in a number of locations across the Murray PHN region.

"From July next year, we hope to fund multi-year contracts to improve cardiac and pulmonary treatment in our catchment," he said. "This means we will be looking for opportunities to partner with even more community service providers to help us deliver our priorities."

All tenders were evaluated by a specialist panel to determine effectiveness (best practice, clinical governance, measurement); equity (underserved populations; access (including transport, cultural safety and cost); efficiency (unit costs); value for money (evidence of benefit to patients) and sustainability (the importance of partners, collaborators, consumers, and health professionals to the services proposed).

The members of the panel included three senior executives from Murray PHN and two representatives of DHHS, advised by four subject matter experts from the Heart Foundation and the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Jones said Murray PHN would also be issuing new tenders for mental health service funding before the end of the year.

Background and further information

For contact details and quotes from successful health services, please see attached document.

For further information on the commissioning process and details about the risk from cardiac and pulmonary diseases, please see:

- "Investing in Primary Care" on the Murray PHN website <http://www.murrayphn.org.au/investing-primary-care>
- The Australian Health Policy Collaboration: "**Heart health for all Australians: the first step to Getting Australia's Health on Track**." www.vu.edu.au/sites/default/files/ahpc-heart-health-policy-paper.pdf
- **The heart of inequality** <http://inet.acu.edu.au/videos/mmih/Mary-MacKillop-Full-Report.pdf>
- www.lungfoundation.com.au

Contact details

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