

Media Release

Community call to get involved in health planning

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Murray PHN is establishing regional Community Advisory Councils to enable communities to participate in planning health service provision that will be tailored to the local areas and designed to address need.

The regional Community Advisory Council structure was developed through feedback and advice that Murray PHN generated through convening 13 community forums throughout the region.

Murray PHN Chief Executive Officer Matt Jones said that the Community Advisory Councils will play a key role in designing local health solutions that will produce more responsive health care and better connect the healthcare system.

“For the first time at a regional level, community members have the opportunity to help shape regional health planning to strengthen the coordination of care to address gaps and needs and improve local health outcomes in communities across the Murray PHN region.

“The four regional Community Advisory Councils will have a broad catchment area connecting the communities of Central Victoria, Goulburn Valley, North East and North West Victoria. Whilst each of the four regional Community Advisory Councils will have a distinct area based upon LGA areas, the focus upon regional planning will also require the capacity to flexibly include adjacent, connected and cross border communities in their considerations”, said Mr Jones.

“An important feature of the advisory council structure will be the joint planning capacity of the regional Community Advisory Councils with the parallel advisory system of Clinical Advisory Councils. This structure brings the perspectives of community and health care providers together to generate locally effective solutions to designing improved models of care at a regional level”, he said.

Each Community Advisory Council will comprise of seven members selected through an application process that will ensure a mix of perspectives, experiences and geographical locations. Individuals who are connected to their local communities and interested in improving health care to the region are encouraged to apply for a position on the regional Community Advisory Councils.

“We are really excited to be able to enable communities to be directly involved in improving health care and health outcomes in their region”, said Mr Jones.

The regional Community Advisory Councils will initially meet bi-monthly with members receiving remuneration for time, travel and associated costs. Recruitment of council members involves a completing an application form. For more information and to apply go to the Murray PHN website >> <http://www.murrayphn.org.au/about/community-advisory-council>

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