

Media Release

Murray PHN commences

1 July 2015

Murray PHN has today commenced operation replacing the Medicare Local program.

Following a review in 2014 the Federal Government announced that they would close the 61 Medicare Local's replacing them with 31 Primary Health Network's across Australia.

The key objectives of the Primary Health Networks are to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes; and improve co-ordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare Local was the successful candidate to establish and operate the Murray PHN region which spans the expansive northern Victoria area from Mildura to Woodend and eastward to Wodonga including Albury. The region incorporates approximately 100,000 square km's with a population base of approximately 600,000 people.

Murray PHN will connect primary health services to improve health outcomes for people. The key priorities are to reduce hospital admissions, prevent cancers, increase immunisation rates and improve the mental health system.

Through analysis and planning Murray PHN will work with hospitals, GPs and service providers to create a more effective and efficient health system including mental health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, population health, health workforce, eHealth and aged care.

Murray PHN Chief Executive Officer Matt Jones said that they will start their first day of operation with staff on board in four offices located in Mildura, Bendigo, Shepparton and Albury.

"Staff have been recruited from the Medicare Local environment to provide the skills, knowledge and relationships that will assist us in fulfilling our responsibility.

"There are a number of positions that we will be seeking to fill during July to compliment the staff that have joined us from the other Medicare Locals," said Mr Jones.

"We have ensured patient services have continued without disruption in the transition from Medicare Local's to Primary Health Networks. In preparation for our commencement we have issued over 110 contracts to 86 organisations providing direct patient services and care to 62 communities throughout our region.

"We look forward to building upon the lead in to our commencement to enable services and support health providers to improve health systems", he said.

Media contact

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