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# MEDIA RELEASE

## Community meeting to discuss suicide prevention in Benalla

15 February 2018

A community meeting will be held on 26 February to discuss current and future suicide prevention activities within Benalla.

Benalla is one of 12 locations in the state taking part in a Victorian Government trial to develop local strategies to prevent suicide. It forms part of the *Victorian Government suicide prevention framework 2016-2025* aimed at halving Victoria's suicide rates by 2025.

Murray PHN is working with the local community to deliver the project, which includes developing community-driven suicide prevention plans that address local priorities and build on existing service and supports. This includes involving local services, schools and other agencies with strong links to the community.

Murray PHN CEO, Matt Jones, said the meeting is an opportunity for the Benalla community to hear from the Benalla Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee about what has been happening over the past six months in the place-based suicide prevention initiative.

"The place based pilot program is aimed at reducing rates of suicide, reducing the number of suicide attempts, improving individual resilience and wellbeing, and improving systems to prevent suicide in an ongoing way," Mr Jones said.

"We know that suicide is more than just a mental health issue – it's something that affects the entire community," he said.

"By attending the community meeting, Benalla residents can learn about how they can get involved in the project and can also provide suggestions to help guide future activities," Mr Jones said.

The meeting details are:

**Date:** Monday 26 February 2018

**Time:** 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start

**Location:** Glasshouse, Lakeside Community Centre, Arundal Street South Benalla

**RSVP:** By COB Thursday 22 February to Bek Nash-Webster [bnash-webster@murrayphn.org.au](mailto:bnash-webster@murrayphn.org.au)

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