

MEDIA RELEASE

\$3 million to strengthen general practice

19 February 2019

Murray PHN has launched a General Practice Prospectus that outlines \$3 million worth of funding available to improve patient care across the region.

During 2016-17, 82.6% of people in the Murray PHN region had seen a doctor in the previous 12 months, with an average of 6.2 visits (AIHW, 2018).

However, access to general practitioners and retaining and attracting GPs remains an ongoing issue for rural and regional parts of the catchment.

Murray PHN CEO Matt Jones said that a high-quality and sustainable general practice sector was vital to the health of the communities within the region.

“Murray PHN is committed to investing significantly in activities to strengthen general practice, while also supporting longer and deeper change across the primary healthcare system.

“Despite the growing prevalence of chronic and complex diseases in the region, the management of those conditions is often siloed across segments of the health system. Poorly managed diseases lead to higher hospital admissions that could have otherwise been avoided,” he said.

Murray PHN has allocated almost two-thirds of the funding (\$1.9m) to care coordination, which aims to organise patient care activities and the sharing of information between health professionals to achieve safer and more effective care.

Care coordination puts people at the centre of their care. It makes it simpler for patients who do not have to tell their story over and over, while reducing the numbers of unnecessary repeat tests or examinations. It also makes it easier for health services because they know how a patient is progressing, both with other practice doctors or allied health professionals.

The funding will also increase access to doctors after hours and specialist mental health care for young people and give more support to people who participate in risky levels of alcohol consumption.

“Our role is to help to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, so that people receive the right care, in the right place and at the right time,” Mr Jones said.

The first workshop was held in Albury last night, with the remaining three workshops to take place tonight in Shepparton, Wednesday in Bendigo and Mildura on Thursday.

Workshop event details

Media are invited to attend up to 20 minutes prior to workshops commencing for photos and interviews. Interviews can also be arranged by phone.

Shepparton – 19 February, 6-9pm, The Teller Collective 55 Fryers St Shepparton

Bendigo – 20 February, 6-9pm, The Capital Theatre View St, Bendigo

Mildura – 21 February, 6-9pm, Botanica Restaurant 427 Deakin St Mildura

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