

MEDIA RELEASE

Community paediatrician service begins

24 February 2021

From today, families in Mildura and surrounding areas have access to a community paediatrician, with funding provided by Murray PHN.

In 2018, a Community Paediatric Project pilot commissioned by Murray PHN and evaluated by Flinders University, demonstrated a clear need for the service to be made available locally.

Murray PHN CEO Matt Jones said that barriers to appropriate, accessible health care could put children at risk, and lead to poorer health outcomes as adults.

“We know that parents and carers, particularly in rural and regional Victoria, often experience significant wait times and costs for their child to see a paediatrician or specialist paediatric health services.

“The role of Primary Health Networks is to identify and analyse health and service needs and prioritise activity to address those needs,” he said. “Child health is a key priority for Murray PHN and we are very pleased to be able to offer this service, to support children and their families to get the care they need closer to home.”

Sunraysia Community Health Services CEO Simone Heald said she was looking forward to the new paediatrician, Dr Daniel Ki, starting on Monday.

Dr Ki has broad experience in inpatient and outpatient paediatrics and is passionate about regional, rural and remote paediatrics, including Neurodevelopmental Paediatrics and comes to us from Mackay in Queensland.

Working between Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) and Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS), the new paediatrician will support a wide range of vulnerable and underserved children, including those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

“The services provided by Dr Ki will be oriented towards behaviour, learning and development, rather than a traditional medical model of care, and will integrate with other local services to build collaborative working relationships across the sector and region.

“The service will also compliment the range of child health and family support services already offered by SCHS and MDAS”, Ms Heald said.

The service will be available initially until mid-2022, with Murray PHN’s future child health activity being informed by this project and other funded child health projects across the region.

Contact details

- Murray PHN Communications Specialist, Jackie Grant: jgrant@murrayphn.org.au / 0408 366 312
- Sunraysia Community Health Services Marketing and Communications Coordinator Kassie Hocking: khocking@schs.com.au / 0427 039 700