

MEDIA RELEASE

headspace Wangaratta to open officially

26 March 2021

headspace Wangaratta has now been providing face-to-face support to young people and their families for three months. To celebrate, an official launch event is taking place at the centre, 44 Rowan Street, on Monday.

The official opening event will begin at 9.45am at 44 Rowan Street, with a welcome to country. Consortium partners and special guests will speak and, to recognise the work of the youth reference group, one of its members has been selected to cut the official ribbon.

The lead agency for the centre is Gateway Health, whose CEO Leigh Rhode acknowledged young people's important role in the development of the centre.

"From our initial survey of more than 1000 young people who told us what services they would like to receive, to the centre's design and more recently the appointment of the youth reference group – young people's voices remain front and centre of headspace Wangaratta," Leigh said.

headspace Wangaratta is funded through Murray PHN, which recognises the collaborative approach required for community-based centres.

Murray PHN CEO Matt Jones said that effective services needed to be targeted and tailored. "When people have input into the types of services they want, we make sure support is provided where it's most needed. This doesn't happen in isolation and relies on effective partnerships - working collaboratively, through a shared approach and focus," Matt said.

Attendees at the event include Helen Haines, Independent Federal Member for Indi; Tania Maxwell, Member for Northern Victoria; Tim McCurdy, Member for Ovens Murray; Brendan McGrath, Rural City of Wangaratta CEO and Dean Rees, Wangaratta Mayor.

Individuals and private groups can make an appointment to tour the centre on the same day. To see the facilities first-hand and speak directly with clinicians about the services available, call headspace Wangaratta on 1300 332 022 to book.

headspace CEO Jason Trethowan says, headspace wants all young people, no matter where they live, to have access to youth friendly mental health services.

"The period of adolescence and early adulthood is a critical time in a young person's life, with 75 per cent of mental health disorders emerging before the age of 25. headspace is committed to supporting young people through this time and I'd like to offer my congratulations to all involved in getting this centre up and running so young people in the community can get support for their mental health closer to home," Jason said.

headspace Wangaratta is open four days a week from 9am-5pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10am-6pm on Wednesdays. It offers free services in mental health, work, school and study, and alcohol and other drug support.

In our region, headspace services are available to young people aged 12-25 years old in locations including Albury/Wodonga, Bendigo, Mildura, Shepparton and Swan Hill. For support and resources, and contact details of local headspace centres visit [headspace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au)

Contact details

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Event running sheet details

Monday 29 March

9.45am	headspace representatives and young people meet VIPs Finalise preparations for presentation on the stage, including erecting headspace signage
10.00am	MC Tom introduces Chris Thorn for Welcome to Country
10.02am	Welcome to Country by Chris Thorn
10.05am	MC conducts formal welcome for VIPs and guests and briefly outlines what it means for headspace to be officially launched
10.07am	MC Introduces first speaker
10.08am	Speech – Leigh Rhode, Gateway Health CEO
10.11am	MC thanks speaker and introduces next speaker.
10.12am	Speech – Stuart Baker, Consortium Chair
10.15am	MC thanks speaker and introduces next speaker.
10.18am	Speech – Dr Helen Haines MP
10.21am	MC thanks speaker and introduces next speaker.
10.22am	Speech – Matt Jones, Murray Primary Health Network CEO
10.25am	MC thanks speaker and introduces next speaker.
10.26am	Speech – (TBC) headspace National
10.29am	MC thanks speaker and introduces next speaker.
10.30am	Speech – Stephanie, Wangaratta Youth Council and ribbon cutting
10.33am	MC thanks speaker and VIPs
10.34am	Activities to follow Photo opportunities/ interviews upon request Tours of the site