

MEDIA RELEASE

Murray PHN residents encouraged to have their say on health

13 July 2021

People living in the Murray PHN region are being encouraged to take part in online conversations aimed at understanding local health care needs.

Murray Primary Health Network reviews regional health data annually, to help guide its funding decisions to support and improve the primary health system.

Every three years, Murray PHN conducts a major Health Needs Assessment with expert health data analyses supported by community consultation to provide a complete picture of local needs.

Population health figures show that the region has higher than state average rates of alcohol and other drug use, as well as people living with mental health and chronic conditions - such as heart and lung disease – resulting in preventable hospital stays.

Several local areas also rate high on the index of relative socio-economic disadvantage, which is based on things like unemployment, low income or education levels and lack of internet access. All of these can be barriers to people accessing the care they need.

Murray PHN CEO, Matt Jones says that while data analysis offers strong insights, it is local experience that provides deeper understanding, context and perspectives to the figures.

“People who use and work in local health services are best placed to share what is or isn’t working well,” he said. “We want to hear about the things that make accessing services difficult, as well as any ideas for improvement.

“The more people who participate and tell us what is important to them, their families and community, the more meaningful our planning will be.

“Having a comprehensive view of health helps us work towards making the local primary health care system as effective, efficient and equitable as possible,” Matt said.

Twenty online conversations will be held over 10 days starting 20 July. For full details, including to complete a health needs survey, visit murrayphn.org.au/hna

Contact details

Jackie Grant, Communications Specialist e: jgrant@murrayphn.org.au or m: 0408 366 312

2021 images of Matt Jones

- https://www.murrayphn.org.au/murray-phn-ceo_matt-jones_2021/
- https://www.murrayphn.org.au/murray-phn-ceo_matt-jones_2_2021/