



EXTENSION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES PROVIDED BY INGLEWOOD & DISTRICTS HEALTH SERVICE

The Murray PHN has advised Inglewood & Districts Health Service (IDHS) that they are extending the exit time for the Mental Health Support and Social Work from the end of June 2017 until the end of September 2017. During this time Murray PHN will work closely with IDHS and other relevant stakeholders to complete a service and needs analysis within the IDHS catchment while providing support in the development of a transition plan.

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) have been charged with improving regional health outcomes by funding services that demonstrate best practice, evidence-based models of care and reducing avoidable hospitalisations over time.

The Loddon region has the highest rate of premature mortality in central Victoria, with avoidable deaths from heart and lung disease more than double the Victorian average. Avoidable deaths from diabetes are 2.5 times higher than the rest of Victoria and the median age at death in the Loddon is two years below the state average.

In our region the top three health priorities are:

- Cardio Pulmonary Disease (COPD) (13,739 sufferers)
- Cardiovascular disease (CV) (8,303 sufferers)
- Diabetes (33,330 sufferers)

To manage chronic diseases effectively, new models of care for patients need to be developed – to provide high level, localise, integrated and coordinated primary care, delivered by multidisciplinary clinical teams in collaboration with the community.

Unfortunately due to the changes to the PHN focus the Mental health support and Social Work services currently provided by IDHS will not be funded from the end of June 2017.

Mental health is a high priority for both Inglewood and Districts Health Service and the Murray PHN. In the new financial year Murray PHN will be:

- Approaching service providers to deliver a broader range of primary mental health treatment options across our region
- Undertaking a redesign of accessible services for people living with severe mental illnesses
- Supporting the recent release of an expression of interest for general practice for the new PHN Black Dog StepCare program
- Implementing the Wedderburn's GPs in Schools program, which will deal in part with mental illness in young people.

Any queries re the services provided at IDHS should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer