



VACCHO Media Release

Innovative partnership strives to improve Aboriginal health with Loddon Mallee

Monday 1 August 2016

A developing partnership between leading Aboriginal health services in the Loddon Mallee region and the Murray Primary Health Network (PHN) is exploring innovative service delivery programs that can further increase the health outcomes of local Aboriginal community members.

Ms Raylene Harradine, Chair of the Loddon Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group (LMARG) said the group was strongly supportive of the new initiative:

“We look forward to working in partnership with Murray PHN to strengthen and support all service provision within our communities, so that Aboriginal people living in the region will have increased access to programs through their local Aboriginal health service that will contribute to closing the health gap”.

The first step towards achieving this goal will be to establish and strengthen existing networks and pathways.

Murray PHN will work closely with LMARG and a broad range of other regional health providers including general practices, hospitals and allied health services to increase health service access to Aboriginal community members.

Murray PHN will work with the four Loddon Mallee Region's Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations who make up LMARG:

- Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative (Bendigo)
- Mallee District Aboriginal Services (Mildura, Swanhill, Kerang)
- Njernda Aboriginal Corporation (Echuca)
- Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative (Robinvale).

This partnership will assist Communities with addressing health issues such as, chronic disease, mental health, alcohol and other drugs.

These Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations bring the cultural connection and knowledge to advocate on behalf of their Community members and ensure that culturally appropriate services are being delivered.

“This partnership will strengthen networks at a local level, giving community members more ownership over their health”, said Ms Harradine.

“We believe it will further improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout the region, and we look forward to the ongoing support of Murray PHN to assist us with providing continuous primary health care to our communities.”

Enquiries, please contact Raylene Harradine, LMARG Chair on: raylene.harradine@bdac.com.au or 0448 116 714