

# MEDIA RELEASE

## New local dementia care support pathways

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New resources are available to support people who have been diagnosed with dementia or are experiencing cognitive decline, their family, and carers.

For some people, there are barriers to diagnosis that can include the belief that memory problems are a normal part of ageing, the perceived stigma attached to dementia and fear about the future.

However, early diagnosis is important to enable a person with dementia and their family to receive help in understanding and adjusting to the diagnosis.

A two-page brochure and four-page information booklet detail where people can go for further help and advice, and include a new online Dementia Directory.

The Directory has been developed to make it easier for people to find trusted sources of information and advice. It lists the contact details for regional assessment services and support groups, with information all in one place.

The booklet briefly outlines the process of getting a dementia diagnosis, initial and ongoing management options, and tips such as having a support person at appointments, taking notes and some questions that people can ask their doctor.

The resources, which have been distributed to local general practice clinics and council offices, can be viewed online, any time, at [murrayphn.org.au/dementiapathways/](http://murrayphn.org.au/dementiapathways/)

Funded by the Federal Government, as part of the response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, these resources have been developed by six Primary Health Networks (PHNs) – Eastern Melbourne, Gippsland, North Eastern Melbourne, Murray, Tasmania and Western Victoria – in partnership with Dementia Australia.

Murray PHN CEO, Matt Jones, said people need to be supported to live well in their community for as long as possible.

“Current estimates show that almost half a million people live with dementia in Australia and as more people live longer, this number is expected to increase.

“In times of need, it can be overwhelming for people to know where to go for support, which is why access to easy-to-understand information in a central location is vital,” Matt said.

As part of this project, clinical management and referral pathways have been updated and training will be provided to support health professionals in caring for their patients with dementia.

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### **About us:**

*Murray PHN is one of 31 PHNs (Primary Health Networks) around Australia working to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of primary health care and service systems. Across our region, we work with general practitioners (GPs), community health, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health*

*Organisations (ACCHOs), pharmacy, aged care and allied health practitioners, and with acute services such as hospitals, specialists and emergency care.*

*The role of PHNs is to help to support and integrate the work of these important services to ensure that the people get the right care, in the right place, at the right time. In the Murray PHN region, which covers almost 100,000 sq km of regional Victoria, we work to develop and maintain sustainable models of primary health care for our communities.*

## **Contact details**

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## **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_2021/)
- [https://www.murrayphn.org.au/murray-phn-ceo\\_matt-jones\\_2\\_2021/](https://www.murrayphn.org.au/murray-phn-ceo_matt-jones_2_2021/)