

MEDIA RELEASE

Community members invited to help shape creative therapies

21 May 2025

Murray PHN is seeking input from community members to help design services for a new creative therapies pilot for people living with mental health conditions in Castlemaine.

People with lived experience, support people and other interested community members living in and around Castlemaine are invited to share their ideas by attending a face-to-face focus group on Tuesday 27 May. There will be two sessions held in Castlemaine – 1.30pm and 6pm – with the opportunity to complete a digital survey for anyone unable to attend on the day. The survey is open now until 6 June: <https://shorturl.at/1SmCB>

The pilot will provide access to music and art therapy services, facilitated by registered therapists who will work with participants and their supports to improve their health through creative activities. Participants don't need to have any music or art experience to benefit. The pilot will start in mid-late 2025 and run for two years.

Murray PHN CEO Matt Jones said ensuring the pilot is locally-driven will help ensure services are accessible and effective.

"We encourage interested community members, service providers, mental health professionals, carers and people with lived experience to have their say and help shape these new creative therapy services," Mr Jones said. "Evidence shows that creative therapy interventions have positive impacts on people experiencing a range of mental health conditions, and this pilot will serve as a complement to other longer-term supports in the region."

For more information and to register to attend a session, visit: <https://shorturl.at/t6uDP>

About us:

Murray PHN is one of 29 PHNs (Primary Health Networks) around Australia working to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of primary healthcare 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 healthcare for our communities.



Leadership



Collaboration



Respect



Accountability



Innovation

Contact details

Email communications@murrayphn.org.au anytime or alternatively contact:

- Monday – Thursday: Jackie Grant, Murray PHN Communications Specialist e: jgrant@murrayphn.org.au or t: 0408 366 312
- Tuesday – Friday: Amity Bradford, Murray PHN Communications Specialist e: abradford@murrayphn.org.au o or t: 0412 060 308

Promotional graphic

- https://murrayphn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/creative-therapy_FB.jpg

Images of Matt Jones

- https://www.murrayphn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Murray-PHN-CEO_Matt-Jones_2024.jpg
- https://www.murrayphn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Murray-PHN-CEO_Matt-Jones_2_2024.jpg