

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Improving health across the region

**Friday 5 December**

Murray PHN (Primary Health Network) has released its annual Report to the Community, detailing the organisation's achievements as it works towards improving health outcomes of people across the Murray PHN region.

In July, the Primary Health Network marked 10 years of operation, strengthening the capacity of rural health, encouraging place-based integration and investing in the sustainability of different primary healthcare models.

In launching this year's report, Murray PHN Chief Executive Officer Matt Jones said that the organisation strives to ensure the most effective and efficient use of its resources to fulfill our responsibilities.

"In our role, we support general practice, allied health and the broader primary care system, improve aged care and fund responsive and high-quality primary mental health services.

"The place-based nature of our work enables us to focus national health priorities on the areas where we can see the greatest opportunity for a more effective and integrated system, with quality measures that support responsive, accessible and quality primary health and community-based services," Mr Jones said.

"This report outlines our efforts to improve the health outcomes of people in our communities. It is a privilege for our skilled team to work with the dedicated and highly capable primary healthcare sector in our region. In collaboration with our primary care providers, we are encouraged by the interest and opportunities to foster innovation and turn ideas into tangible improvements, activities and programs."

Some of Murray PHN's shared programs and achievements this year have included:

- The Lower Hume Primary Mental Health Partnership - led by Yea and District Memorial Hospital, together with local partners Alexandra District Health, Seymour Health, Northern Health and Goulburn Valley Health – was formed with funding and support from Murray PHN to provide people with free face-to-face support for non-urgent mental health related issues (page 11)
- A new campaign called *His Story. End Silence, End Suicide.* was rolled out across the region, encouraging men to reach out and seek help, in a bid to reduce the rate of men's suicide (page 16)
- Murray PHN and Bendigo Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) collaborated to gain approval for the clinic to be the first site in the state to be accredited to provide extended skills placements in urgent care for GP registrars. This means registrars can complete a training program and attain an extra certificate while working full-time at the UCC (page 32)
- The GP Aged Care Connect Service was launched to assist permanent residential aged care home residents, their carers and health professionals to connect to a GP/general practice clinic if they don't currently have one (page 59).

Read the report at: <https://tinyurl.com/2025rttc>

Murray PHN also released the [Murray Health Report: Housing Instability and Health](#) in September, which is available to download online, along with other key Murray PHN reports:

<https://murrayphn.org.au/about-us/key-documents/>

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### **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.*

### **Contact details**

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### **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_2024.jpg)
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