

MEDIA RELEASE

New Psychosocial Recovery Services

13 January 2022

Murray PHN is investing \$4.8 million across our region to help people living with severe mental illness and their carers. This investment follows the Commonwealth Government's decision to combine three separate funding streams into one Psychosocial Recovery Services Program that begins 17 January 2022.

Psychosocial recovery services provide non-clinical, life skills support to vulnerable people living with severe mental illness who are unable to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The services help people with anxiety, mood, personality, psychotic, eating, substance use and trauma related disorders, to manage their daily living needs.

Assistance provided can include alcohol addiction support, financial management assistance, educational and training goals, but above all, support that helps people to stay well.

This significant investment will also help provide more consistent care for individuals across Murray PHN's 100,000 sq km catchment.

Late last year, Murray PHN conducted an open tender for the delivery of effective Psychosocial Recovery Services in eight clusters across the region.

Murray PHN Acting CEO Janine Holland said that each submission was evaluated by an expert panel, which included a representative with lived experience of mental illness.

"We are very pleased to have had a strong response to the tender, giving local communities the best possible care options.

"It is important that people with severe mental illness can live independently, safely, and productively in the community.

"The tender evaluation was based on a range of factors relating to client experience, workforce capacity, value for money and the ability to implement and support a peer workforce.

"Murray PHN is pleased to announce that two services – Wellways Australia Limited and Stride Mental Health – have been successful in their submissions".

Stride will service the local government areas of Campaspe, Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Mount Alexander and Macedon Ranges.

Wellways will service Albury, Wodonga, Indigo, Towong, Alpine, Wangaratta, Benalla, Mansfield, Moira, Greater Shepparton, Strathbogie, Mitchell, Murrindindi, Buloke, Gannawarra, Swan Hill and Mildura (including Robinvale) local government areas.

Wellways Regional Manager Tegan Williams said the team was proud to partner with Murray PHN to continue supporting people living with severe mental illness in the community.

"At Wellways we work in partnership with people and their families to identify their needs and goals and support them to attain a meaningful life in the community.

"We use our lived experience to work with participants to focus on hope rather than illness".

Acting CEO of Stride, Drikus van der Merwe said the organisation had a long history of supporting people with complex needs.

“We have been walking alongside people with mental illness for 115 years, supporting them on their recovery journey. Through our work and advocacy, we aim to lessen the lifelong impact of mental illness.

“We are excited to work with Murray PHN and the local communities, drawing on our specialist skills in psychosocial recovery”.

Enquiries relating to Psychosocial Recovery Services can be directed to Murray PHN’s Psychosocial Systems Coordinator, Sharlene Green at: sgreen@murrayphn.org.au

Media contact details

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Photo of Janine Holland

- https://www.murrayphn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Janine-Holland_CAMB1841_cropped-scaled.jpg