

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

20 September 2016

### **Northern Sydney PHN commissions headspace for local youth mental health services**

Northern Sydney PHN (operated by Sydney North Primary Health Network, SNPHN) is pleased to announce that the first youth and mental health service to be commissioned in Sydney's north will be **headspace**, the early intervention mental health service for 12-25 year olds.

The arrangement will see SNPHN fund existing headspace centres in Chatswood and Brookvale and work in collaboration with Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD), headspace consortia partners and general practice to strengthen and support youth mental health in the region.

An estimated 176,522 people aged 12-25 years live in the Northern Sydney area and national statistics show as many as one in four young people can experience mental health illness.

"Sydney North Primary Health Network is delighted to be working with headspace. As a key focus for our region, we are committed to delivering a best practice youth mental health service," said SNPHN Chair, Dr Magdalen Campbell.

"We look forward to working in collaboration with headspace, our general practitioner workforce and other health services to continue to strengthen and support youth mental health services in the Northern Sydney region," said Dr Campbell.

In addition to the work being undertaken with headspace, SNPHN will undertake a youth mental health services' review and evaluation this year. The review will determine the number and type of service by geographic region and where service gaps exist. The findings will assist in the planning and development of new programs and additional services to support young people aged 12-25 years in Northern Sydney and the design of best-practice youth mental health services for young people by 2018.

Federal funding for local primary healthcare based mental health services transferred from the Australian Government to 31 local and regional Primary Health Networks on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, under a commissioning of services arrangement.

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## About Sydney North Primary Health Network

Northern Sydney PHN, operating as Sydney North Primary Health Network is one of **31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs)** established by the Australian Government nationally to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for the community.

We work across the local primary healthcare system with health providers and services to improve the coordination of care for people who are at risk of poor health outcomes so that they receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

### Media Enquiries

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