

MEDIA RELEASE

28 February 2017

SNPHN announces \$1.7 million in funding to new local alcohol and other drug services

Sydney North Primary Health Network (SNPHN) is pleased to announce three local service providers will receive Federal funding to provide new services to support people in the region in need of alcohol and other drug treatment services.

SNPHN Board Chair, Dr Magdalen Campbell, said the new funding of \$1.7 million will increase capacity of local service providers to meet demand for alcohol and other drug services, including ice rehabilitation services. The funding for local services is part of the Government's response to the National Ice Taskforce report.

"These new services will support some of our most vulnerable community members to access programs and treatment to enable their recovery. This includes our youth, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community," said Dr Magdalen Campbell, SNPHN Board Chair.

SNPHN worked with the alcohol and other drug sector, including service users and peak bodies, to understand and plan the services required in Northern Sydney. Following a procurement process involving stakeholder and consumer representation on our Evaluation Panels, three organisations have been selected to deliver new services across the Northern Sydney region.

"The first commissioned service is a partnership between **Odyssey House McGrath Foundation** and **New Horizons**, which will deliver a psychological counselling and rehabilitation day program for adults across the region," said Dr Campbell.

"The second service is **Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre**, which will provide a support program for young people aged 14-25 years across the region, who are experiencing moderate to severe drug and alcohol addiction, including ice.

"Finally, **ACON** will deliver specialist alcohol and other drug treatment services to LGBTI community members.

"We will work with GPs and the wider health sector to improve access to much-needed services and promote a smoother journey for community members through their recovery," said Dr Campbell.

SNPHN will also work closely with the contracted organisations to support the delivery of high quality, safe services that meet the needs of the northern Sydney region.

"We would like to congratulate these three service providers on their successful tender applications and we look forward to working together to achieve better health and better care in the region", concluded Dr Campbell.

These services will be launched from April 2017.

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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. As well as co-design and *commission new services, where it has been identified through our Population Health Planning and Needs Assessment process, that a service gap exists.*

We work across the local primary healthcare system with general practice, allied 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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