

Victorian and Tasmanian PHN Alliance 2018 year in review

This past year, the Victorian and Tasmanian Primary Health Network Alliance, the collective platform for Primary Health Networks (PHNs), has worked to advance primary care reform in Victoria and across the Bass Strait into Tasmania. The Alliance approach is consistent with its mission to optimise the collective capabilities of the seven Victorian and Tasmanian PHNs as a sector. The Alliance contributes to national developments, and proactively aligns efforts of a jurisdictional purview.

In line with this, 2018 has resulted in several significant developments. These include:

- The **Alliance Chair and Deputy Chair roles were established** and held by Dr Leanne Beagley, CEO, Western Victoria PHN and Mr Matt Jones, CEO, Murray PHN respectively. Adjunct Associate Professor Christopher Carter, CEO, North Western Melbourne PHN will serve as Chair for 2019.
- The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Primary Health Networks, and the Victorian PHN Alliance signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to formalise the commitment and overarching framework for a collaborative working relationship. The Victorian MoU builds on exemplar approaches, specifically, the MoU between Primary Health Tasmania, the Tasmanian Health Service, and Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services which was executed in 2016.
- The focus on collective efforts in support of integrated primary care planning and delivery has remain unchanged for the Alliance. **Leading initiatives underway** with key partners include:
 - The Alliance formalised its collaboration with **Primary Health Tasmania** as an important and equal partner. The arrangement establishes a mechanism for greater joint-jurisdictional leadership, and interface with the National PHN Cooperative.
 - PHN partnerships to strengthen the health and education interface to help healthier younger people learn and thrive. Victorian PHNs have partnered with the **Victorian Department of Education and Training** to support the delivery of primary care and mental health supports across secondary schools across Victoria.
 - PHN collaboration with partners such as the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Australian Digital Health Agency to support high performing primary care. This has involved targeted capability building efforts in areas including but not limited to quality management of high risk medicines in support of the introduction of **real-time prescription monitoring, better practice cancer identification and treatment, high-risk medications prescribing and dispensing, blood borne virus management and support, and digital health enablement** using

My Health Record. The Alliance statewide team supported delivery efforts across the PHNs.

- Finally, **collective planning, workforce development and commissioning** of new services to support effective and efficiency of approach, with core benefits derived by practitioners, service organisations and ultimately patients and carers.

Looking ahead to 2019, our shared focus remains expanding the opportunities for statewide system reform and integration of services to improve access, equity, and the impact of primary health care.

The Victorian and Tasmania PHNs look forward to working with you as key partners and realising strengthened service system responses which will deliver outcomes for communities.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Leanne Beagley

Alliance Chair 2018

CEO, Western Victoria PHN

Ms Robin Whyte

CEO, Eastern Melbourne PHN

Mr Phil Edmondson

CEO, Primary Health Tasmania

Dr Elizabeth Deveny

CEO, South Eastern Melbourne PHN

Mr Matt Jones

Alliance Deputy Chair 2018 and 2019

CEO, Murray PHN

Ms Amanda Proposch

CEO, Gippsland PHN

Adjunct Associate Professor Christopher Carter

CEO, North Western Melbourne PHN

Ms Jade Hart

Manager, Victorian and Tasmanian PHN Alliance

Contact

Jade Hart, Victorian and Tasmanian PHN Alliance

Email: jade.hart@vtphna.org.au

Telephone: 03 9347 1188