

MEDIA RELEASE

5 October 2018

Big win for Portland's youth as headspace Portland opens

Young people in Portland will have better access to youth mental health services from today, with the opening of the latest headspace centre at 148/150 Percy St, Portland.

The centre, commissioned by Western Victoria Primary Health Network PHN) and operated by a consortium led by Brophy Family & Youth Services, is a welcome addition to local health services and will provide vital support to young people and their families in the region during times of need.

Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan said the Australian Government invested \$350,000 in 2017-18 to support the establishment of headspace satellite services in Portland and would provide ongoing funding of \$350,000 per year from 2018-19.

As a key element of the Australian Government's mental health reforms, headspace centres and other Commonwealth-funded, regionally delivered mental health programs are now funded through Primary Health Networks (PHNs).

PHNs assess local health and mental health needs and can commission services to meet those needs, as well as making sure that services work for their clients and their particular circumstances.

Western Victoria PHN also commissioned the headspace centres in Ballarat, Horsham, Geelong and Warrnambool.

"The establishment of a headspace service in Portland, administered by Brophy Family & Youth Services will provide those direct and much needed funds for critical services for local young people," said Leanne Beagley, CEO of Western Victoria PHN.

"Already a well-known and trusted youth brand, headspace in Portland will attract young people to an accepted youth-friendly service."

Brophy Family & Youth Services, Executive Manager Health Services, Anne Waters, thanked the Commonwealth Government for investing in youth mental health services for the region.

Ballarat

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Tel: 03 5331 6303

Geelong

131 Myers St
Geelong 3220
Tel: 03 5222 0800

Horsham

81 Hamilton St
Horsham 3400
Tel: 03 5381 1756

Warrnambool

Bayside City Plaza
24-36 Fairy Street
Warrnambool 3280
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Together with our partners and communities, Western Victoria PHN identifies priority health care needs, improves access through government funding, and co-designs localised solutions to improve health care systems across western Victoria.

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“headspace Portland is a testament to recognising the need for rural models to support young people’s health and wellbeing and the dedication and hard work of headspace Warrnambool, our consortium members, youth ambassadors, and the Western Victoria Primary Health Network,” she said. “We are thrilled with how the service has already benefited the lives of young people in the Portland region and the significant support and enthusiasm we’ve had from supporters and the broader community.”

headspace offers early intervention for 12 to 25 year olds in four key areas:

- mental health
- related physical health
- social and vocational support
- alcohol and other drug use.

Early intervention remains the key to reducing the impact and duration of mental illness, which affects one in four young Australians, aged between 16 and 24 each year.

headspace Portland is part of the current national network of 100 centres, plus two outposts, which assists up to 110,000 young Australians each year. Over 355,000 young people have used headspace centres and eheadspace since its beginning 11 years ago.

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For more information, please contact:

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