

# SOCIAL CONNECTION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

## How we are aiming to help our community recover from the impacts of social isolation during and post-pandemic

### 1. What is happening?

Western Victoria PHN (WVPHN) has \$350,000 in funding available for Social Connection Partnership Grants. These grants have a focus on supporting the development of cross-sectorial partnerships and supporting activities that provide an immediate and localised response to the social and economic impacts of social isolation. There is one grant available within each of the four WVPHN sub-regions (Ballarat Goldfields, Geelong Otway, Great South Coast and Wimmera Grampians).

### 2. Why is this project important?

According to the Australian Loneliness Report (Australian Psychological Society 2018), 1 in 4 Australians feel lonely. Social isolation and loneliness are recognised as major contributors to a person's health and wellbeing. Due to the current situation relating to COVID-19, people have been advised to limit social activities, non-essential travel, and unnecessary visits to relatives or friends. There is a risk that well-being, feelings of connectedness and overall health could deteriorate as a consequence. The grants provide an opportunity to strengthen relationships across sectors to improve social connection and overall health and wellbeing in the WVPHN community. This will be particularly important as we move into the recovery phase post COVID-19.

### 3. How can my organisation be involved?

Organisations currently delivering or working towards delivering social connection initiatives within the WVPHN region will be eligible to apply for funding. As the grants have a focus on creating partnerships, organisations are encouraged to collaborate across sectors to implement locally responsive innovations that address the social and economic impacts of social isolation currently emerging.

### 4. How will our community be involved?

The grants provide an opportunity to ensure that social connection initiatives are accessible to the entire WVPHN community, including socio-economically disadvantaged areas and vulnerable groups. Priority will be given to expanding and improving existing initiatives already underway locally.

### 5. Any other questions?

WVPHN staff are happy to discuss any questions you or your colleagues may have. Contact our project team via [afterhours@westvicphn.com.au](mailto:afterhours@westvicphn.com.au)