

Thursday, 26 November 2015

Brisbane North PHN will play significant role in mental health reform

Brisbane North PHN welcomes the Federal Government's decision to place Primary Health Networks at the centre of mental health care, driven by the priorities of local communities and focused on individual consumer needs.

Acting Chief Executive Jeff Cheverton said Brisbane North PHN is ready to continue its significant role in the reform of the Nation's mental health system.

"We are already working with people with mental illness, their families and health care providers to better plan and coordinate mental health services across our region," Mr Cheverton said.

"For more than a decade we have worked with GPs, private health care providers and those in need of these services to keep people well and out of hospital," he said.

"Within the last four years we enabled 14,000 people in this region to access psychological services through their GP at no cost to the consumer.

"For more than two years we have worked closely with public and private sector agencies to deliver a program that assesses the needs of people with severe mental illness and then coordinates a package of support around them, directed by those clients and their families.

"In total we commissioned more than \$22M of health and social services last year to keep people healthy and living in their own homes and communities.

"All of this work is driven by the needs of local communities and is delivered in partnership with health consumers and their family members," Mr Cheverton said.

ENDS

Editor's note:

For further details on the Government's mental health announcement, see:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2015-ley141.htm>

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About the Brisbane North PHN

Brisbane North PHN supports clinicians and communities in Brisbane's northern suburbs, Moreton Bay Regional Council and parts of Somerset Regional Council. It covers approximately 4,100 km² of urban, regional and rural areas, with a population of over 900,000.

The Federal Government announced the establishment of 31 Primary Health Networks to replace the national network of Medicare Locals in 2015. The Government selected successful PHNs through an open and competitive process, including the Brisbane North PHN.

The key objectives of the PHN are:

- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes; and
- improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

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