

Improving Adelaide's Primary Mental Health Services – Major Providers

As part of the Adelaide PHNs mission to improve mental health outcomes across the metropolitan area, Adelaide PHN has selected the organisations who will provide general mental health therapy services.

- **LINKS TO WELLBEING (Consortium group: NEAMI, Uniting Care Wesley Bowden, Mind Australia and MIFSA)** will be the provider in Adelaide's southern and central eastern regions
- **NORTHERN HEALTH NETWORK** will be the provider in Adelaide's northern and central western regions

"We have carefully looked at mental health need across Adelaide's metropolitan area and these two providers demonstrate the best mix of expertise, versatility, capacity and structure to produce real benefits for people in real need," said Deb Lee, Adelaide PHN CEO.

Along with the two major providers, Adelaide PHN has also selected another nine organisations that will provide specialist services including treatment for children and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. All 11 providers will be linked by a central referral and triage service that will commence operations on July 4, 2016. The fax number for this service is 1300 580 249.

Adelaide PHN is also working with its partners to develop a new model of care for young people with severe and emerging mental illness. The model will target an increased number of young people and have an expanded eligibility criteria. These services will be regionally based (north/west and south/central) and work closely with the existing headspace centres and Local Health Network (LHN) youth teams to provide young people with improved equity and access. Adelaide PHN is excited to be a part of this new expanded service for young people.

"Just as important as the new providers are the new structures and connections we have put in place to make the system truly person-centred – to make sure people can receive the right treatment at the right time in the right place," Ms Lee said.

Adelaide PHN has worked hard to ensure the introduction of the new system will be seamless for those people currently accessing services and their carers. While the new providers will begin operation from 1 July 2016, there will be a three-month transition period to ensure continued access to services.

"In the new primary care system we are now putting in place we are linking the many facets of the mental health system, to make sure people are able to access the most appropriate quality service in a timely and efficient way. We are forging strong links with the State system to ensure the primary, tertiary and acute sectors can work together better when required," Ms Lee said.

"There will be one point of referral, which will ensure that referral is easier for GPs and a major improvement in access to services so that people don't fall between the cracks," Ms Lee said.

(more)

“By bringing the primary mental health system under one umbrella we don’t just improve efficiencies, we improve efficacy. It will deliver better outcomes – making people healthier and keeping them out of hospital,” she said.

Adelaide PHN will closely monitor the new system to track outcomes, increase efficiency and ensure continuous improvement over time.

More information can be found at the Adelaide PHN [website](#).

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