**Adelaide Primary Health Network**

**Call for Expressions of Interest to deliver  
primary mental health services, and drug   
and alcohol treatment services**

**Introduction**

The Adelaide PHN is committed to improving the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of primary health services across the Adelaide metropolitan region. Spanning the region from Sellicks Hill to Angle Vale and between the foothills and the sea, Adelaide PHN encompasses a community of some 1.2 million people.

Adelaide PHN is not a service provider but is responsible for commissioning services to best address local needs. Guided by community, clinical and stakeholder input, Adelaide PHN has a clear goal of improving health outcomes for the community.

Established and funded by the Australian Government, Adelaide PHN is one of 31 PHNs now operating Australia-wide.

The Adelaide PHN is keen to hear from organisations in the region that are interested in delivering primary mental health and/or drug and alcohol treatment services in the 2016-17 financial year. Adelaide PHN will release an Invitation to Apply (including assessment criteria) in February 2016.

**Mental Health Reform and Commissioning**

The Australian Government recently announced bold reforms to primary mental health care in Australia, to be rolled out over a three year period between 2016 and 2019. The reforms included a number of measures, several of which are to be implemented through PHNs:

* Mental health services commissioned, not delivered, through PHNs, appropriate to the needs of local communities;
* A stepped care model of primary mental health services;
* Coordinated packages of care created for people with severe and complex needs and flexible support for mild and moderate needs;
* A new Digital Mental Health Gateway to optimise the use of digital mental health services;
* A new approach to suicide prevention, coordinated by PHNs, focusing on evidence and community based suicide prevention activities;
* Increased access to services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
* The Mental Health in Education school-based initiative to provide a comprehensive service to children and young people

Adelaide PHN has welcomed the opportunity to innovate to make the system more responsive, more focussed and more effective.

We are currently undertaking a needs assessment and service mapping exercise, to determine the most effective distribution of mental health resources in the region.

Adelaide PHN is committed to conducting a robust and transparent commissioning process, ensuring optimal service quality and value for money in the delivery and coordination of primary mental health services for the region.

We aim to minimise disruption for people using mental health services and referring general practitioners, and will communicate frequently to ensure stakeholders are informed of developments. The Adelaide PHN is committed to maintain and develop relationships between general practice, community members and mental health service providers in the region.

It is expected that successful primary mental health service providers will be able to:

* deliver high quality services according to appropriate clinical standards;
* submit quarterly progress reports and collect data for evaluation purposes;
* participate in an open evaluation of services;
* have appropriate clinical governance in place to ensure quality and safety of services

**Taking action to combat ice**

The Australian Government has developed a comprehensive package of action to tackle the problem of ice (crystal methamphetamine) addiction through the delivery of locally-based and targeted solutions.

There are five key areas of action:

* Empower local communities and more support for families
* Target prevention and education to those most at risk
* Further investment in treatment and workforce support
* Focused law enforcement
* Better research, evidence and guidelines

Of particular importance to Primary Health Networks, the Australian Government has decided to improve access to treatment, and ensure our workforce is supported to deliver effective and flexible treatment approaches. This involves providing a significant investment of $241.5 million for the delivery of further treatment services, with commissioning of these services to be undertaken by Primary Health Networks at the regional level to ensure local coordination and better patient management. This includes funding to support the delivery of Indigenous-specific treatment services.

**Call for Expressions of Interest**

Adelaide PHN is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from organisations who may wish to apply to deliver primary mental health and/or drug and alcohol services in the 2016-17 financial year. Interested parties are invited to submit a brief expression of interest on the attached form. The EOI aims to:

* give potential applicants advance notice of the upcoming Invitation to Apply in 2016; and
* provide Adelaide PHN with an indication of the scope, capacity and distribution of potential providers of primary mental health and drug and alcohol services in the region.

The commissioning process is broadly outlined below.

**Outline of the commissioning process**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Activity** | **Approximate timeframes (to be confirmed)** |
| Phase 1 | Call for Expressions of Interest | December 2015 |
|  | Potential applicants submit EOI (not mandatory) | Due 15 January 2016 |
|  | Adelaide PHN analyse results of EOI and prepare Invitation to Apply documentation | January – February 2016 |
| Phase 2 | Adelaide PHN release ‘Invitation to Apply’, including guidelines and template | February 2016 |
|  | Applicants submit application on template, addressing criteria | March 2016 |
| Phase 3 | Independent panel assess applications against criteria | March - April 2016 |
|  | Contract negotiations and execution with successful applicant(s) | April – May 2016 |
| Phase 4 | Contracted services commence | 1 July 2016 |

Submission of an EOI in Phase 1 is not a prerequisite for submitting an application in Phase 2. An EOI is optional, but is strongly encouraged to assist Adelaide PHN in assessing service capacity across the region.

This EOI will provide an opportunity for potential providers to indicate interest, with no future commitment or obligation. Whether or not an organisation submits an EOI will not affect the subsequent selection of service providers in any way. All applications submitted in Phase 2 will be subject to the same rigorous assessment process.

All EOIs submitted to Adelaide PHN will be treated confidentially.

In the interest of fairness and probity, Adelaide PHN is not able to address any queries for further information in relation to the EOI. Information sessions are planned for early February 2016 to enable all prospective providers to be better informed of these changes. Further detail will also be available when the full ‘Invitation to Apply’ is released later in February 2016. Please keep an eye out for further communication from Adelaide PHN, and we look forward to receiving your EOI.

**Adelaide PHN Primary Mental Health and/or Drug and Alcohol Services Expression of Interest Form (2016-17)**

Due Date: 5pm (SA time), Friday January 15 2016.

Send to: [applications@adelaidephn.com.au](mailto:applications@adelaidephn.com.au)

*(Please work through this template, providing information in the boxes provided. Boxes will expand to fit the text. Please observe word limits and keep responses to the minimum necessary to provide sufficient detail. Dot points are acceptable)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Organisation** |  |
| **Name of contact person** |  |
| **Current location(s) of organisation** |  |
| **In which approximate geographic locations would the provider be interested in delivering services, within Adelaide PHN and/or in peri urban areas** | (max 200 words) |
| **Please describe the nature and extent of previous and current experience in delivering clinical primary mental health and/or drug and alcohol services (therapeutic orientation, treatment modalities, group/couple/individual treatment mode etc)** | (max 300 words) |
| **What types of services are you interested in delivering in future? (Assumption is that you may not necessarily want to continue all or some of the types of services previously provided)** | (max 200 words) |
| **Does the organisation have expertise with treatment of particular diagnoses?** | (max 200 words) |
| **Does the organisation have expertise with specific population groups?** | (max 200 words) |
| **Please outline willingness, capability and proposed strategies to increase service delivery capacity (if applicable), including approximate timeframes** | (max 300 words) |
| **Proposed or suggested partnership arrangements with other organisations** | (max 200 words) |
| **How did you hear about this opportunity for Expression of Interest?** | * Email alert from Adelaide PHN * Saw advertisement in ‘The Advertiser’ * Saw it on the Adelaide PHN website * From a friend/colleague * Other (please specify) |