

30 May 2016

Improvements ahead for Adelaide's Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs services

The Adelaide PHN has finalised its preferred providers to deliver improved Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs (MH & AOD) services across the Adelaide metropolitan region.

Identified through an exhaustive and transparent Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the preferred providers are now negotiating contract details with Adelaide PHN with the first contracts scheduled to take effect from July 1, 2016.

"This is a major milestone in our effort to provide the people of Adelaide with a better integrated system – one that ensures we have the right services in the right locations, and that allows people to easily access those services," said Malcolm Ellis, Adelaide PHN's Development & Commissioning Manager.

"Since the Commonwealth Government handed over the responsibility for the design and funding of MH & AOD services last year, an incredible amount of work has been done and I would like to congratulate everyone involved for the effort, professionalism and probity which has us at this stage."

While full details of the service improvements and alterations won't be finalised until contracts have been signed, the Adelaide PHN has worked to provide a smooth transition for both community and providers.

"For people currently receiving these crucial services I can assure you that we have an absolute focus on service continuity, so community won't be disadvantaged in any way," Mr Ellis said.

For those existing providers, which haven't been successful in the RFP process, a three-month transition strategy to 30th September 2016 has been put in place.

In developing the design for Adelaide's new MH & AOD services, Adelaide PHN has taken a truly collaborative approach which involved all relevant stakeholders, including service providers, consumers and other invested parties both government and non-government.

Further, Adelaide PHN created a MH & AOD Advisory Working Group which provided expert input to determine the gaps in the current system and identify what needed to be done. The new primary health system for MH & AOD services will:

- Provide a comprehensive range of services across the entire Adelaide region and across the entire spectrum – from the well population to those experiencing ongoing, chronic conditions.
- Ensure easier access so those in need can be referred to the most appropriate service.
- Be closely linked with Country SA PHN to ensure equity and access across the whole of South Australia.

Greater detail about the service improvements will be made available once the contract negotiation process has been completed.

Media inquiries – Jonathan Revitt at Michels Warren 0412 639 179