

16 October 2025

New Outreach Healthcare Program to Support Victim-Survivors of Family Violence in East Gippsland

Gippsland Primary Health Network (Gippsland PHN) and Gippsland Lakes Complete Health (GLCH) are proud to have officially launched the *Supporting Outreach Healthcare for Victim-Survivors of Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence* pilot program — a new initiative [funded by the Australian Government](#) under the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032](#).

The Supporting Outreach Healthcare Program is designed to improve access to healthcare for people impacted by family, domestic and sexual violence through integrated, community-based care.

Data from the Gippsland PHN [2025-28 Health Needs Assessment](#) highlighted the need for improved access to healthcare for people experiencing family and domestic violence. As of March 2024, East Gippsland had recorded the [highest rate of family violence incidents](#) in Victoria. Family violence has profound impacts on physical, mental and social wellbeing, particularly for children and young people. Primary health providers play an important role, with an estimated one in five women experiencing intimate partner violence seeking help from a GP or other health professional.

Gippsland PHN was one of only six Primary Health Networks nationally selected to commission this place-based outreach model of care. Gippsland Lakes Complete Health has been commissioned to deliver the service, embedding a team of nurses, allied health professionals and social workers into GLCH's existing Family Violence Service to address primary health needs.

The program builds on the successful Pathway to Good Health framework and will use outreach, outpost and telehealth models to ensure victim-survivors across regional and rural areas can access timely, trauma-informed care. Services will operate across Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Bruthen, Metung, Nowa Nowa and surrounding townships.

In addition to providing direct health support for victim-survivors, the program will strengthen the capacity of local health providers through training, consultation and partnership. By building on existing referral pathways and trusted relationships between services, the program aims to reduce duplication and ensure coordinated, person-centred care for those most in need.

"Gippsland PHN is proud to commission this much needed and valuable service in partnership with our service provider Gippsland Lakes Complete Health. This pilot program represents an important step forward in connecting health and family violence services to ensure people experiencing violence can access the care and support they need, when and where they need it."
said Amanda Proposch, Chief Executive Officer, Gippsland PHN.

16 October 2025

Kathy Dickinson, Family, Youth and Children's Services Executive Manager at Gippsland Lakes Complete Health, shared, *"This program means victim-survivors in East Gippsland will not only have access to family violence support, but also the health care they need to recover and rebuild. By embedding our team within existing services, we can provide seamless, trauma-informed care close to home."*

The Supporting Outreach Healthcare for Victim-Survivors of Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence pilot program officially launched in Bairnsdale on Wednesday 15 October, bringing together representatives from health, community and family violence sectors to celebrate this important regional initiative.

--END--

Media contacts

Angus McLaurin

Manager Communications

Gippsland PHN

03 5175 5463

angus.mclaurin@gphn.org.au

Laura Poole

Marketing & Communications Manager

Gippsland Lakes Complete Health

03 5155 8300 / 0402 046 742

laurap@glch.org.au