

MEDIA RELEASE

Mobile skin check clinic visits Gippsland Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations

5 September 2023

Free skin checks will be provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Gippsland.

Gippsland Primary Health Network is partnering with five Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), across six sites to host visits from mobile skin check clinic, Your Skin Scan.

The first round of visits starts on 11 September and consists of 'Your Skin Scan' performing skin checks on eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patients identified by their local ACCO. At the conclusion of round one, patients requiring further follow-up will be identified and booked in for the second round checks or referred on to additional services.

The clinic's lead clinician is a qualified clinical nurse consultant and nurse practitioner with more than 10 years working in the field of melanoma and skin cancer.

Gippsland PHN Acting Chief Executive Officer, Angela Jacob, said cancer screening saved lives. "It helps to keep our communities strong, safe and healthy," Mrs Jacob said.

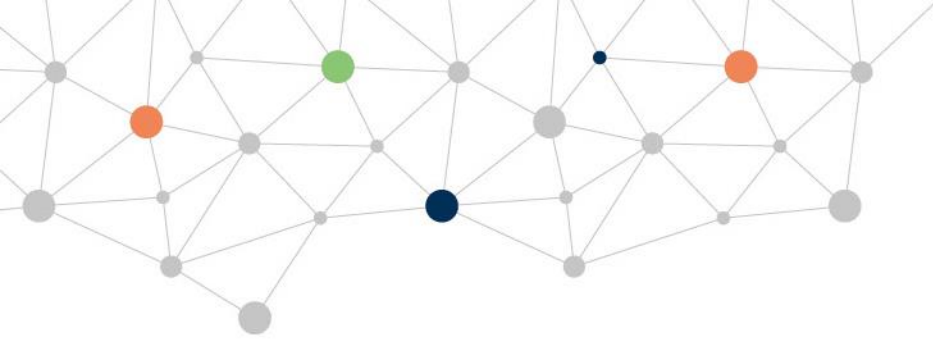
"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians have a five-year survival rate of 59 per cent after being diagnosed with melanoma compared to 71 per cent for other Victorians. An earlier diagnosis means a greater ability to treat and a chance of survival.

"If you put off or missed a cancer screening test during the pandemic, make sure you catch up."

The free skin checks are being delivered under Gippsland PHN's Integrated Team Care (ITC), supplementary Services funding which contributes to improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with chronic health conditions through better access to coordinated and multidisciplinary care.

"One of our strategic objectives is to commission for service access," Mrs Jacob said. "We need to ensure people can access services at the right time and in the right place, especially where gaps exist and in hard to reach locations."

The first round of skin checks will visit ACCOs on the following dates:



- 20 November 2023 - Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association, 18-26 Jemmeson Street
- 21 November 2023 - Moogji Health Services, 52 Stanley Street, Orbost
- 22 November 2023 - Lake Tyers Health and Children's Service, 1 Rules Road, Toorloo Arm
- 3 January 2024 - Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative, 37-53 Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale
- 4 January 2024 - Ramahyuck, 2 Stead Street, Sale
- 5 January 2024 - Ramahyuck, 15-17 Collins Street, Morwell

People interested in attending should reach out to their local ACCOs who are coordinating appointments and transport.

ENDS

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