

MEDIA RELEASE

Investment in Gippsland aged care

19 August 2022

Gippsland Primary Health Network will make an unprecedented investment in regional aged care services in response to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

The Australian Government is providing more than \$7 million in funding to help older people in Gippsland navigate the aged care system which is complex and often difficult for them to find and access the services they need.

Gippsland PHN will commission services to implement four aged care programs including care finder and early intervention programs which are both community facing as well as telehealth services and out of hours support for Residential Aged Care Facilities.

Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, said there had long been calls for more localised and face-to-face support to help older people navigate, understand and access aged care, and connect with relevant supports in the community.

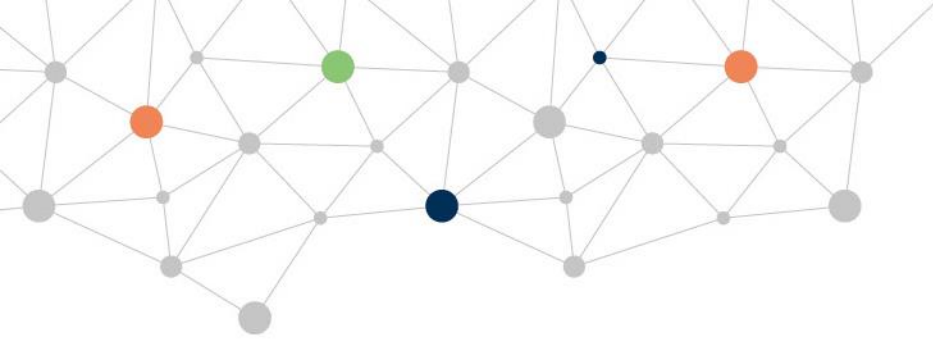
“In response to these calls and the recommendations of the Royal Commission, we are establishing these four programs including care finder which has a specific focus on older adults who might otherwise miss out on timely care and support and find the aged care sector too challenging,” Ms Proposch said.

“We have local knowledge of community needs and will commission care finder organisations to complement – not duplicate – My Aged Care. This local approach will ensure care finder services are tailored to support the specific needs of older adults in Gippsland.”

Ms Proposch said there were many reasons why older people found it challenging to navigate My Aged Care and may need intensive support to access services.

These include:

- isolation or absence of a support person who can act with an individual’s informed consent
- communication barriers, including limited English language or literacy skills
- difficulty processing information to make decisions
- resistance to engage with aged care, for reasons including safety or crisis, including current or possible future homelessness



- reluctance to engage with government and institutions due to past discrimination or trauma, such as people identifying as LGBTIQ+ or those who experienced childhood in an institutional environment.

The care finder tender will be released on Monday 5 September, closing on Friday 30 September. The tender process is being supported by a supplementary assessment to Gippsland PHN's recent Health Needs Assessment 2022-2025 to further identify needs and priorities of older adults in the region to inform and guide the care finder program.

These health needs assessment activities will be reported to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care at the end of August and then be made available on the Gippsland PHN website.

The tender for early intervention activities was released on Monday 15 August and closes on Friday 9 September. It seeks qualified and experienced organisations to deliver early intervention activities and models of care for chronic disease management that supports healthy ageing and reduces pressure on local health services.

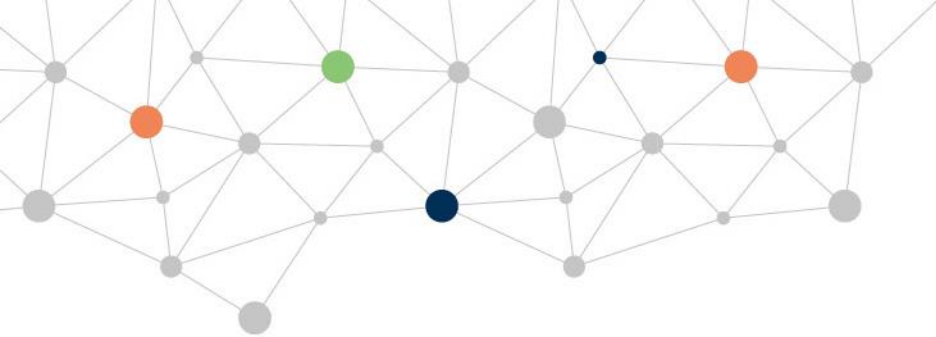
Proposals may include delivering clinical services targeted at chronic disease management, falls prevention initiatives or facilitating community activities that support social wellbeing and connectedness for senior Australians.

Ms Proposch said this funding for aged care was a further step in Gippsland PHN's vision for the region – a measurably healthier Gippsland.

"We work to ensure that everyone everywhere has access to services," she said. "It's about identifying those areas based on local need and prioritising services to achieve the best possible outcomes."

To keep up to date with Gippsland PHN's procurement and tender opportunities, go to <https://gphn.org.au/procurement-and-tendering/commissioning-opportunities/>

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