



MEDIA RELEASE

Celebration of Gippsland primary health care

16 November 2023

A family violence prevention initiative, a day respite service, a clinic to treat diabetes-related foot problems and a cultural awareness safety program have won the 2023 Gippsland Primary Health Awards.

Chief Executive Officer of Vic Health, Dr Sandro Demaio, announced the four winners from 16 awards finalists from across Gippsland who were celebrated at the Gippsland Primary Health Awards event on Wednesday 15 November in Traralgon.

GippSport, Gippsland Women's Health and the Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault won the Prevention category, South Gippsland Hospital the award for populations, Latrobe Community Health Service and Latrobe Regional Health won the Health category and West Gippsland Healthcare Group the service category.

Gippsland PHN Acting Chief Executive, Angela Jacob, congratulated the winners who each received a \$2000 voucher.

"The awards showcase the amazing work of our primary care health professionals and organisations across the region," Mrs Jacob said. "This year's theme was 'Ask the Question' and our 16 finalists all demonstrated that if you ask the right question the result is a powerful tool for driving health outcomes.

"They demonstrated how, by asking the right questions, they identified the need for their service or project, and then designed and delivered it to meet this need."

The winners:

Populations – improving health and wellbeing of communities

South Gippsland Hospital - The hospital's Day Respite Service was designed to help older, frail or isolated people to remain in their own home by providing support they need. With the aim of ensuring service flexibility for both consumers and carers, the hospital worked collaboratively with other organisations to provide this accessible and integrated service for South Gippsland.

Health – improving outcomes for people experiencing ill health

Latrobe Community Health Service and Latrobe Regional Health: diabetes-related foot disease is a major health concern across the region. The Gippsland High Risk Foot Service provides specialised assessment and treatment of high-risk foot complications in a multi-disciplinary environment. To date, 879 episodes of care have been provided to more than 220 Gippsland residents. The diabetes-related foot ulcer healing rates over a 12-week period are equivalent to the rates in major tertiary hospitals in Melbourne.



Prevention – improving social and environmental factors of health

GippSport, Gippsland Women’s Health and the Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault – These organisations won the award for the Winter Orange Round which has been running across the region for nine years. They saw an opportunity for sports clubs in the region to take a stand for the prevention of family violence and with the support of Gippsland’s six local councils, five Prevention of Family Violence Networks and state sporting associations, the campaign was launched.

Service – improving health service outcomes and experiences

West Gippsland Healthcare Group – This cultural awareness project was the result after a Kurnai Elder asked how health service staff could improve their understanding of why cultural safety matters. The WGHG worked closely with Kurnai Elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members to create a new cultural safety training package, resulting in the filming of three videos. The first video, Jackson’s Track, featuring messages from the Kurnai Elders, has been shown at events across the wider community.

Captions:

Populations award - Pictured are Sam Park Deere, Lilli Lush and Fran Allott, all from South Gippsland Hospital Day Respite Service.

Health award – Pictured are John Chen from Latrobe Community Health Service and Alison Lang from Latrobe Regional Health.

Prevention award – Pictured are Michelle Harris and Kathleen Denny from GippSport.

Service award – Pictured are Audra Fenton and Angela Greenall from West Gippsland Healthcare Group.

For more information, contact Lynne Smith at lynne.smith@gphn.org.au or 0437 918 234.