

## Snapshots of health and wellbeing in Gippsland LGAs

20 October 2022

New health and wellbeing snapshots of Gippsland's six Local Government Areas show how each municipality's community compares to the whole of Gippsland and Victoria.

Information for the snapshots is taken from the Gippsland PHN Health Needs Assessment 2022-2025, highlighting multiple and complex priorities for the region's primary health system.

Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, said the Health Needs Assessment assisted in working towards the organisation's vision for a Measurably Healthier Gippsland.

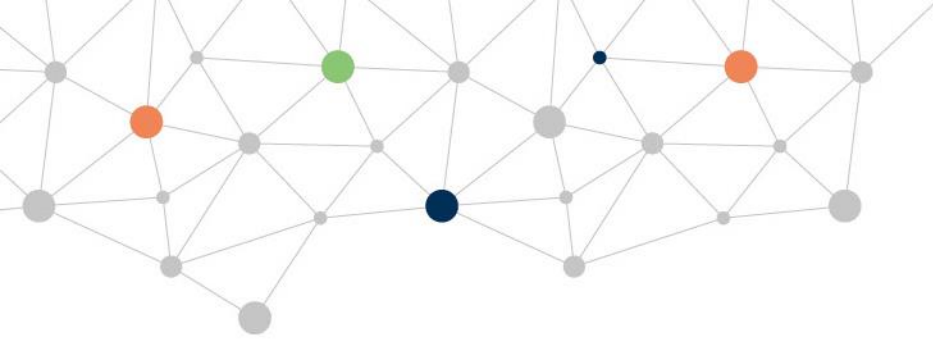
"Individual PHNs are responsible for identifying and addressing the primary health needs in their region," Ms Proposch said.

"We do this through strategic planning, commissioning services, supporting general practice and other health care providers in continuous improvement, and designing programs to facilitate seamless care.

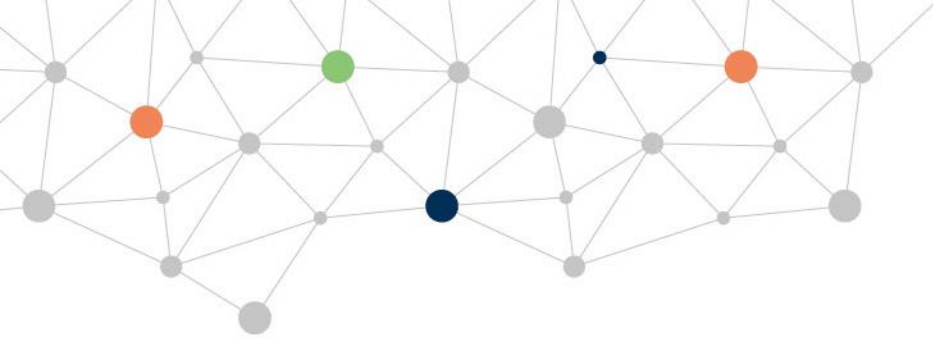
"We are also focusing on driving positive change in health behaviours through the adoption and use digital health tools and technologies by healthcare providers in Gippsland. Building an integrated system of health that considers multiple, interconnected factors across the lifespan inclusive of community, carers and consumers is critical. "

**Current services and programs Gippsland PHN currently commissions and leads in response to identified needs include:**

- **Primary Mental Health Care and Alcohol and Drugs Services** – Gippsland PHN has commissioned a range of services to support consumers, depending on needs, through a Stepped Care model including Head to Health.
- **Community Led Multi-Disciplinary Models of Care** – A tender opens on 31 October 2022 for a new Community-Led Multidisciplinary model of care. Gippsland PHN undertook stakeholder and community consultations to inform and codesign the new model.
- **After-hours medical services** – A new tender went out on 17 October 2022 to use innovative approaches to service delivery to reduce the burden on hospital emergency department presentations during the after-hours period, in particular to Residential Aged Care Facilities.
- **Aged care** – Gippsland PHN is making make an unprecedented investment in regional aged care services in response to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. We are commissioning 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.



- **Indigenous Dual Diagnosis Services** - The aim of this service is to contribute to an innovative, effective and quality mental health and AOD service for the Gippsland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- **Integrated Team Care within Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations** - The aim of this service is to contribute to improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with chronic health conditions through better access to coordinated and multidisciplinary care.
- **Palliative care** - Gippsland PHN has been provided funding by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care under The Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care measure to coordinate palliative care activities in Gippsland.
- **Maximising cancer screening** – Gippsland PHN is funding this program to facilitate an increase in cancer screening, working with bush nursing centres and general practices
- **Cancer Shared Care** – Gippsland PHN is leading this statewide program to improve the wellbeing and support for people affected by cancer.
- **New Priority Primary Care Centres** – Gippsland PHN is working with the Victorian Government and local health services to fund these new centres in Gippsland and reduce the pressure on hospital emergency departments.
- **Discharge Summary Project** - A new trial project from Gippsland PHN and Latrobe Regional Hospital will ultimately make a patient’s discharge from hospital to their doctor for ongoing care a seamless process.
- **My Health Record** – Gippsland PHN is promoting this digital record for consumers and clinicians. It provides a platform for a more holistic approach, better care coordination and tailored advice. It supports healthcare teams in achieving a common goal, optimum health outcomes for patients especially those with chronic and complex medical conditions.
- **Capacity Tracker** – Gippsland PHN funds this cloud-based, online tool to support general practices, pharmacies, Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO) during emergencies.
- **Digitally Enabled Social Prescribing** – Gippsland PHN supports general practices to implement ‘social prescribing’. It enables healthcare professionals to connect people with social, therapeutic and practical support in their area. By using the online platform, Kaleidoscope,



health professionals can co-design care plans with patients, supporting patients to own their health and wellbeing goals.

- **Remote patient monitoring** – Gippsland PHN has provided grants to general practice to monitor their patients at home, using the software platform called Lifeguard. It features mobile apps for patients and health professionals, a web portal and infrastructure to connect patients and health professionals together in real-time.
- **Doctors in Secondary Schools** - Gippsland PHN funds this service in nine Gippsland secondary schools. GPs and practice nurses visit schools onsite either a weekly or fortnightly basis. Telehealth has also been introduced as an option for consultation.
- **GP Commissioned Home Visits** – Gippsland PHN funds GPs to support COVID-19 positive patients to be managed at home, helping reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments. Doctors from 10 general practices across Gippsland have seen 210 patients aged from three months to 103 years old in the last six months. Of this total, 121 have been residents in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs).

These programs and services, and more, are on our website at <https://gphn.org.au/>

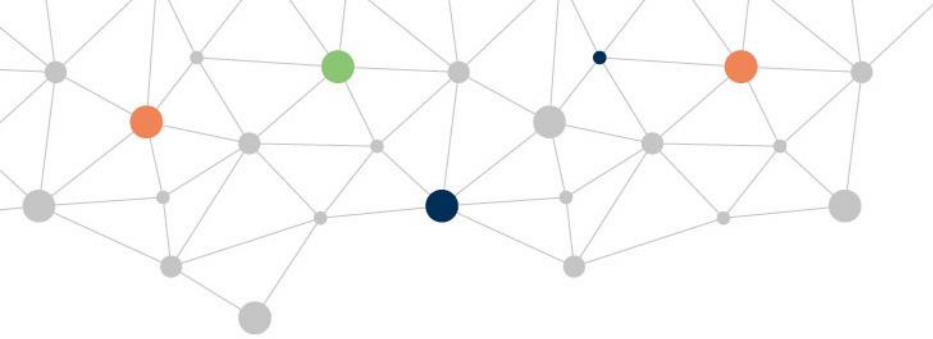
#### **Notable aspects in the LGA snapshots are:**

##### **Latrobe**

- High rate of ambulance attendances for alcohol intoxication
- High rate of family violence
- High rate of presentations to Emergency Departments that could be treated in primary care

##### **Wellington**

- High rate of family violence
- High rates of avoidable deaths due to cancer and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- High rate of presentations to Emergency Departments that could be treated in primary care



### South Gippsland

- High rate of family violence
- High number of people aged 65 years and over
- High number of avoidable cancer and heart related deaths

### Baw Baw

- High rate of chlamydia notifications
- High rate of presentations to Emergency Departments that could be treated in primary care
- High rate of population growth

### Bass Coast

- High number of people consume alcohol at risky levels and high rate of ambulance attendances for alcohol intoxication
- High rate of family violence
- High number of people aged 65 years and over

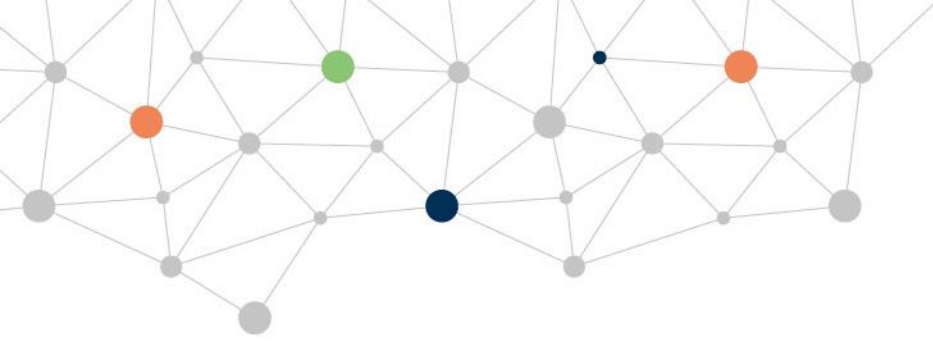
### East Gippsland

- High number of people consume alcohol at risky levels and high rate of ambulance attendances for alcohol intoxication
- High rate of family violence
- Ongoing recovery from the 2019-20 bushfires continue to impact the community

Go to the LGA snapshots at <https://gphn.org.au/what-we-do/health-planning-research-and-evaluation/fact-sheets/>

### Go to the Health Needs Assessment

<https://gphn.org.au/what-we-do/health-planning-research-and-evaluation/population-health/our-priorities/>



**ENDS**

*Gippsland PHN is part of a national network of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia. Primary Health Networks are predominantly funded by the Australian Government to tackle identified national objectives and priority areas. Visit: [gphn.org.au](http://gphn.org.au)*

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