



MEDIA RELEASE

Mallacoota community health survey

Monday 7 June 2021

While many Mallacoota residents recognise the limitations of living in a remote location, they have complimented local health services for their quality and range.

This was one of the findings from a community survey of local health services, conducted by Gippsland Primary Health Network. The survey attracted 218 responses, representing 20 per cent of the population.

In another key finding, participants raised the difficulty in accessing visiting specialists and the need to seek care in major regional centres. Because of long waiting lists, if residents did seek specialist care out of town, they often incurred the cost of an overnight stay, particularly impacting on the aged and frail.

Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, thanked those who responded to the survey, which will feed into the organisation's major region-wide Health Needs Assessment, being undertaken this year.

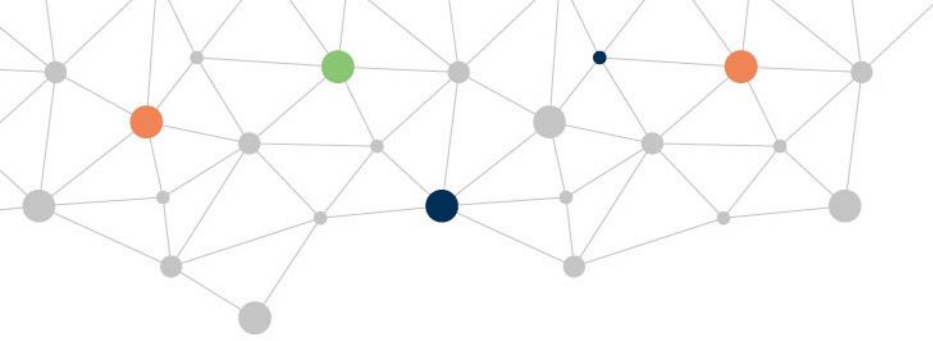
"This survey will assist us in understanding the issues that matter most to the community and also help determine the most needed services," Ms Proposch said.

"For example, closely linked to the need to access specialist care out of town is the need to travel for services beyond basic primary care and others spoke of the lack of transport options available, particularly for those that need additional assistance.

"There were suggestions the travel burden could be reduced through more telehealth."

Other key findings included:

- The need for services to be available other than 9am-5pm Monday to Friday
- The availability of the after-hours ambulance service is welcome but concerns about the need to be transported to a regional hospital for care.
- The need for better aged and palliative care
- Concerns how people will manage as they age and may need to move if services are not available locally
- Suggestions care could be better coordinated across health service providers



For more details, see the summary document.

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