

MEDIA RELEASE

Major contract awarded to support victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence in Latrobe and Baw Baw

23 May 2024

Following a highly competitive procurement process, Gippsland Primary Health Network has awarded a \$7.4 million contract to Latrobe Community Health Service to support victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence in Latrobe and Baw Baw.

The contract is part of the new Australian Government's Supporting Recovery Program.

Gippsland PHN was one of only six Primary Health Networks nationally invited to participate in the program. It received funding of \$10.6 million to improve coordination and access to trauma-informed recovery services for victim-survivors of family domestic and sexual violence who are experiencing mental health challenges in Latrobe and Baw Baw.

The program aligns with the Australian Government's [National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children](#), supporting victim-survivors of family domestic violence and sexual violence to be safe and healthy in order to be able to recover from trauma and other impacts of violence.

Gippsland experiences some of the highest rates of family, domestic and sexual violence in Victoria.

Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, said there was a critical need to support a local system under increasing pressure and this new program was a targeted response.

"Local case management services are overwhelmed with long waiting lists due to high rates of family violence and the workforce continues to experience burnout and turnover," Ms Proposch said.

"There is currently a very high demand for family violence case management services, with limited therapeutic and recovery services available to victim-survivors.

"We collaborated with key stakeholders to determine where the critical needs exist and have no doubt the successful tenderer will hit the ground running."

Latrobe Community Health Service will partner with Cairnmillar Institute to deliver the trauma-informed mental health services component of the program.

The partnership of Latrobe Community Health Services and Cairnmillar will also significantly contribute to upskilling the family, domestic and sexual violence sector workforce in Latrobe and Baw Baw in trauma-informed care, delivering dedicated trauma-informed training that includes a Graduate Certificate in Trauma-informed Care.

Latrobe Community Health Service Chief Executive Officer, Paul Ostrowski, welcomed the opportunity to work with Gippsland PHN and Cairnmillar to provide mental health support and trauma-informed care to victim-survivors of family domestic and sexual violence across Latrobe and Baw Baw.

“This is a significant issue not only in our community, but across Australia,” Mr Ostrowski said. “LCHS is a known, trusted provider of healthcare services in Gippsland and we feel privileged to play a role in delivering recovery-based outcomes to those impacted by violence so they may feel, safe, healthy and supported in our community.”

In February this year, Quantum Support Services was awarded a \$3.2 million contract to be the local care coordination team for the new project, expanding existing case management and care coordination services and enabling increased capacity to respond to and reduce current waiting time for service.

Both Latrobe Community Health Service and Quantum Support Services will work closely together in an integrated multi-disciplinary service model to deliver Gippsland PHN’s new Supporting Recovery Program which runs until 30 June 2026. The program will then undergo evaluation to support decision making regarding future funding for this and other services for victim-survivors.

- *Gippsland PHN is holding an official launch of the Gippsland Supporting Recovery Project at 11am on Friday 21 June 2024 at Latrobe Community Health Service’s office, 81-87 Buckley Street, Morwell. The media is invited to attend.*

ENDS

Note: *If you or someone you know is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, family, domestic, or sexual violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit [1800RESPECT.org.au](https://www.1800respect.org.au).*

If you are concerned about your behaviour or use of violence, you can contact the Men’s Referral Service on 1300 766 491 or visit www.ntv.org.au.

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