

# Media Release

## Youth-friendly mental health service relaunched

26 September 2017

Young people experiencing early psychosis can continue to access youth-friendly mental health support services in Perth's northern and eastern suburbs thanks to the relaunch of the headspace Youth Early Psychosis Program (hYEPP).

This announcement coincided with a visit to Perth by Professor Pat McGorry, executive director of Orygen and world-leading expert in early psychosis and youth mental health. He was also a key architect of the national headspace model.

hYEPP offers specialist treatment and support for young people aged 12 to 25 at risk of or experiencing a first episode of psychosis, which can affect the way they interpret the world, and cause symptoms that affect their beliefs, thoughts, feelings and behaviour.

The early intervention model with a recovery focus helps to reduce the severity and impact of these symptoms, allowing the young person to maintain or return to normal activities as soon as possible with minimal ongoing disruption.

Federal MP for Hasluck, the Hon. Ken Wyatt AM, said hYEPP has already made a significant contribution to addressing a serious mental health issue that, without expert and specialist intervention, can seriously impact a young person's life.

"The renewed funding of \$9.5 million a year for the program - which runs out of headspace centres in Midland, Joondalup and Osborne Park - reflects the Coalition Government's commitment to youth mental health and to helping some of the most vulnerable young people in our community continue to lead meaningful, happy lives," Mr Wyatt said.

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA), who operates the Perth North Primary Health Network, has re-engaged Black Swan Health and Youth Focus to deliver the program.

WAPHA general manger Bernadette Kenny said, "We look forward to seeing the fully funded service deliver great outcomes for young people and their families, as well as evaluating the outcomes of the three-year trial."

Black Swan Health chief executive officer Terina Grace said, "WAPHA acted quickly to help get the program back to full capacity, meaning we can continue to offer support and treatment to about 600 young people and their families a year."

headspace programs are synonymous with engaging, age appropriate mental health services delivered in a youth-friendly, safe environment.

Young people can be referred to the program by anyone, including their GP or another mental health professional, or by self-referral.

For more information, or to talk to one of the headspace team, call 08 9301 8999 or email [hYEPPReferral@headspacejoondalup.com.au](mailto:hYEPPReferral@headspacejoondalup.com.au)

## ENDS

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**About WAHPA:** WAPHA oversees the strategic commissioning functions of the Perth North, Perth South and Country WA Primary Health Networks (PHNs). The WA PHNs are three of 31 PHNs established by the Australian Government nationally to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for the community. We work across the WA healthcare system with doctors, allied health professionals, Area Health Services and service providers to improve the coordination of care for people who are at risk of poor health outcomes. For more information, visit [www.wapha.org.au](http://www.wapha.org.au)