



Media Release

New mental health service in Carnarvon

28 March 2017

A new mental health service will be delivered in Carnarvon which is aimed at improving the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

WA Country Health Service has been contracted by WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to coordinate, link and be a resource on all Mental Health services for the Aboriginal population in Carnarvon and the surrounding area. This service will operate in conjunction with Carnarvon Medical Centre and Carnarvon Medical Services Aboriginal Corporation.

WAPHA regional manager Jodie Green said the new service will enhance and better integrate health services at a local level and ensure that care is culturally appropriate.

Ms Green said WAPHA's Population Health Needs Assessment revealed mental health-related hospitalisations are substantially higher in Carnarvon compared to the state average.

Ms Green said the mental health services will increase the care and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with mental illness.

"By providing this service in Carnarvon and the surrounding area means Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to the care they need in the right place and at the right time," Ms Green said.

Member for Durack Melissa Price said the Federal Government is committed to supporting people experiencing mental health issues in rural and remote areas.

"Engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with culturally appropriate services will assist them to determine solutions and manage their mental health care," Ms Price said.

The service is currently funded to 30 June 2018.

ENDS

- WA Primary Health Alliance operates WA's three Primary Health Networks; Perth South, Perth North and Country WA

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