



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

phn
PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative

Media Release

GPs are good for our mental health

31 July 2017

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) supports the Australian Medical Association's campaign to raise awareness of GPs as the first port of call when people experience mental ill health.

Placing a GP at the centre of their patients' mental health care encourages early detection and intervention with potential benefits including lower intensity treatment, faster recovery and better management of coexisting mental and physical conditions.

WAPHA Chair Dr Richard Choong says good mental health is fundamental to the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, and primary care with GPs at its core must play a larger role as one of the main ways to achieve improved outcomes.

"This calls for a more fully integrated primary mental health care model that supports GPs and other primary care clinicians to recognise and respond to common mental health conditions, with additional support when required from more specialised services," said Dr Choong.

WAPHA is currently commissioning a number of innovative primary mental health services that make it easier for GPs to refer patients experiencing mental ill health – particularly those whose current access is limited or who have a high level of unmet need – to the most appropriate level of care.

ENDS

Media contact

Fiona Clark, Corporate Affairs Adviser – (08) 6272 4904 – fiona.clark@wapha.org.au

About WAPHA: 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