

## St John of God Health Care to run new Head to Health centres

22 May 2023

- **St John of God Social Outreach, part of St John of God Health Care, to run new Head to Health adult mental health centres in Armadale, Gosnells and Balga/Mirrabooka.**
- **WA Primary Health Alliance awarded the contracts to St John of God Health Care following a competitive open tender procurement process.**
- **Head to Health adult mental health centres offer free, walk-in mental health services.**
- **The new Head to Health services are expected to open in the second half of 2023.**

WA Primary Health Alliance has selected St John of God Social Outreach as the lead agency to establish and operate the new Head to Health adult mental health centres in Armadale, Gosnells and Balga/Mirrabooka.

St John of God Health Care was awarded the contracts following a competitive open tender procurement process.

Expected to open in the second half of 2023, the new Head to Health services will offer free advice, support and, if needed, assessment and treatment for people with stress, anxiety and other mental health issues.

These new sites are part of a wider range of [Head to Health services](#) available to the community including the Head to Health Assessment and Referral Phone Service 1800 595 212.

The national expansion of Head to Health mental health services means more communities will benefit from this essential mental health initiative.

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care has committed to an additional centre for regional Western Australia in the future. More details will be announced later this year.

### **Comments attributed to WA Primary Health Alliance CEO, Learne Durrington:**

“Head to Health centres offer a friendly, low-key environment for people who need support, helping reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues which can make some people reluctant to seek help.”

“St John of God Health Care is a highly experienced mental health service provider. Their experience establishing and running the Midland Head to Health centre over the past 18 months will benefit those living in and around Armadale, Gosnells and Balga/Mirrabooka as sites are established within their own communities.”

# MEDIA RELEASE



“We are confident St John of God Social Outreach, as the operator of the new Head to Health services, will again work with local health professionals, service providers, and people with lived experience over the coming months to inform the design of the new services to ensure they meet the needs of the local communities and are well integrated into existing health and social service networks.”

## **Comments attributed to St John of God Social Outreach CEO Susan Cantwell**

“We are delighted to take on the role of operator of a further three Head to Health adult mental health centres in Perth, in addition to the existing site at Midland.

“By creating a single point of entry that connects people to the most appropriate support services without requiring a referral or appointment, these centres will remove some of the most significant barriers to accessing appropriate and timely mental health care in the community.”

## **Comments attributed to Federal Member for Burt, Matt Keogh:**

“Mental health and suicide prevention are top priorities for the Albanese Government, and we are determined that people living in Armadale, Gosnells, and indeed across Perth’s south eastern suburbs have access to quality care, close to home.”

## **Comments attributed to Federal Member for Cowan, Anne Aly:**

“We know early intervention is key to improving mental health recovery, that’s why WA Primary Health Alliance’s expansion of the Head to Health program is a welcome addition to the health services available in our local community.

“Having readily available access to mental health services like Head to Health will be an important support for our community.”

This activity has been made possible through funding provided by the Australian Government under the PHN Program.

## **ENDS**

WA Primary Health Alliance media contact - Fiona Clark, 0437 563 735, [fiona.clark@wapha.org.au](mailto:fiona.clark@wapha.org.au)

St John of God Social Outreach media contact - Rachael Micallef-Jones, 08 6116 0463, [Rachael.Micallef-Jones@sjog.org.au](mailto:Rachael.Micallef-Jones@sjog.org.au)

## **About WA Primary Health Alliance**

WA Primary Health Alliance shapes, strengthens and sustains primary health care through partnerships and strategies that improve people’s access and health outcomes. As the operator of WA’s three Primary Health Networks – part of the Australian Government national PHN program – we help communities and people most at risk of poor health to get better access to care closer to home. We achieve this by supporting general practice to deliver the highest quality patient care, funding local primary health care services based on community needs and connecting local services to simplify the health care system. Along with our strong

# MEDIA RELEASE



partnerships, our statewide structure allows us to deliver better health, together for the benefit of the WA community. For more information, visit [www.wapha.org.au](http://www.wapha.org.au)

## **About St John of God Health Care and St John of God Social Outreach**

St John of God Social Outreach is part of St John of God Health Care, a leading provider of high-quality healthcare services in Australia. Established in Western Australia in 1895, St John of God Health Care is a not-for-profit private healthcare group and a ministry of the Catholic Church. We employ more than 16,000 staff and operate 27 facilities in Australia and New Zealand comprising more than 3,300 beds, as well as home nursing, disability services and social outreach programs.