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New Geraldton pilot to support long-term recovery from family, domestic and sexual violence

- A new trauma-informed recovery service is being piloted by WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) in our Country WA Primary Health Network (PHN) region to provide long-term psychological therapies for women and children impacted by family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV).
- The Supporting Recovery pilot will deliver up to two years of free, traumainformed therapies in Geraldton, supported by a small care team providing intake, assessment and case management.
- WAPHA has commissioned360 Health + Community to deliver therapeutic services and Ruah Community Services to provide case management and referral coordination.

FDSV often results in long-term mental health impacts that require sustained, traumainformed support, yet most services remain crisis-focused and difficult to navigate.

The Australian Government has selected WAPHA's Country WA PHN as one of six PHNs nationally to establish a <u>Supporting Recovery pilot</u>, delivering long-term, trauma-informed psychological therapies for victim-survivors.

This pilot reflects the joint commitment of the Australian Government and the WA State Government, working together under a renewed five-year National Partnership Agreement on FDSV Responses with Western Australia.

Following extensive needs assessment, Geraldton was selected as the most viable location for the pilot in Country WA, as it offered the best balance between community needs and service capacity.

Ruah Community Services and 360 Health and Community have been commissioned by WAPHA to deliver two complementary service types in Geraldton, promoting sustained recovery and addressing trauma-related mental health conditions for victim-survivors of FDSV.

Developed by an expert panel on behalf of the Australian Government, the Supporting Recovery model includes a *no wrong door* approach to local care coordination and therapeutic services, embedded within existing community pathways.

Recognising that recovery is not linear, the model is designed to support victim-survivors to continue their healing throughout the recovery journey. The Local Care Team will assist women and children to overcome barriers that may arise during in therapy.

WAPHA will continue to work with local stakeholders to maximise the outcomes of this initial

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pilot in Geraldton and establish a scalable model to provide more communities with access to free, long-term trauma-informed mental health care.

Comments attributed to WA Primary Health Alliance Executive General Manager Commissioned Services, Mark Cockayne:

"Our Supporting Recovery pilot represents a significant step forward in providing FDSV victim-survivors with the integrated and accessible recovery care they need to help them to heal over time."

"We are delighted to be partnering with Ruah Community Services and 360 Health and Community to deliver a service designed specifically for long-term recovery from family, domestic and sexual violence.

Comments attributed to CEO of Ruah Community Services, Debra Zanella:

"The impacts of family, domestic and sexual violence are profound, and recovery takes time. This new service pilot will give people the opportunity to access long-term, trauma-informed support in their own community, something that has been missing for far too long."

"Ruah is proud to work alongside 360 Health and Community and WA Primary Health Alliance to bring this important service to Geraldton, helping our regional community rebuild their wellbeing, safety and confidence."

Comments attributed to 360 Health + Community CEO, Mark Slattery:

"We are proud to be one of six pilot sites in this national program, providing much needed mental health therapies to victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence in Geraldton and the Midwest region."

"This opportunity enables us to stand alongside victim-survivors as they navigate their path to healing and recovery. By recognising recovery as a pillar in the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children, it highlights that healing is a long-term process that must be individually tailored to each person's journey."

"We look forward to partnering with Ruah Community Services, who will deliver case management and referral services through their local care team. This collaborative partnership will ensure victim-survivors not only receive coordinated support, but also the compassion and guidance needed to rebuild their lives."

<u>Find out more</u> about the work undertaken by WAPHA in our Perth South PHN to strengthen primary care responses to FDSV. This activity is supported by funding from WA Primary Health Alliance through the Australian Government's PHN Program.

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About Us: 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 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