

PMc



1 October 2019

The Hon. Jenny Mikakos
Minister for Health
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Dear Minister Mikakos

Re: Victorian Primary Care Partnership funding security

Campaspe Shire Council is concerned at the lack of information and detail pertaining to the continuation of the Primary Care Partnership (PCP) Program funding.

We are an active and long standing member of the Campaspe Primary Care Partnership and strongly value the role and functions that our local PCP provides in ensuring better outcomes for our community.

Campaspe PCP has a membership which reflects the social determinants of health with 44 member organisations representing the health, community services and the education sectors. Campaspe PCP facilitates over 10 cross sector partnership groups in the local area that provide a platform to address local issues at the local level.

The local Aboriginal Health Partnership Group is a leading example of the important role Campaspe PCP play. The platform applies self-determination and creates a forum for local providers to integrate and connect with Njernda Aboriginal Corporation. Successful initiatives from this group include:

- reduction in smoking rates in the Aboriginal community,
- significant improvements for Aboriginal Mental Health consumers particularly through securing monthly psychiatry clinics at the Aboriginal Medical Service,
- annual Koori Arts & Craft market, and
- Cultural Awareness training for mainstream providers.

Campaspe PCP has been instrumental in supporting the Healthier Campaspe initiative, whereby the health services in Campaspe have a shared service plan to provide better clinical care for obesity, diabetes, mental health and alcohol and other drugs.

Campaspe PCP also provides the project management skill and expertise to broker and strengthen partnership work that integrates the way services are delivered, in particular through:

- providing local data and evidence of community need to members for planning and funding of services and program applications;
- working with local providers in building capacity in:
 - supporting vulnerable children and families;
 - identification and responding to family violence;
 - dementia awareness and understanding; and
 - Mental Health literacy/Mental Health First Aid;
- connecting rural agriculture providers to health services including coordinating drought and flood relief activities including the Farm Gate assertive outreach model; and
- providing a catchment wide approach to Prevention initiatives that maximises the efforts of multiple organisations to address Healthy Eating Active Living and Family Violence prevention collectively.

We strongly encourage you when considering the future funding arrangements of PCP's to recognise the critical role they play in supporting partnerships in the health and community service sectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate these concerns. We invite you to contact Paul McKenzie, Regulatory and Community Services General Manager on 5481 2200 should you wish to discuss these concerns further.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Weston
Mayor Campaspe Shire Council

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