

24 January 2019

\$3.4 million tender open for National Psychosocial Support



North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) is releasing a \$3.4 million tender for new Psychosocial Support Services for people with severe mental illness who are not eligible for assistance through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

While the introduction of the NDIS will provide comprehensive and individualised support for people with severe and disabling mental illness, there is a gap in services for those who need specialised but less intensive support.

New Commonwealth funding under the National Psychosocial Support (NPS) Measure has been designed to address this gap, together with continuing and new Victorian Government funding for psychosocial support services.

‘Psychosocial support’ can include receiving practical help with daily living and tasks, being supported mentally and physically and getting connected to services in the community.

NWMPHN CEO Adjunct Associate Professor Christopher Carter said that the NPS funding is critical in providing support to those at risk of missing out on services.

“The NPS could affect a large number of community members in our catchment who would otherwise ‘fall between the cracks’ in the transition to the NDIS,” Associate Professor Carter said.

“The focus of the NPS is to build capacity and connectedness at times when it is most needed, through short-term psychosocial support in a stepped care approach.”

The new Psychosocial Support Services, funded under the NPS measure, are for people who:

- have reduced psychosocial functional capacity
- are ineligible for the NDIS

- are not current clients of Partners in Recovery, Day-to-Day Living, and Personal Helpers and Mentors programs

Statewide, the proportion of adults with high psychological distress levels has increased from [11.4% in 2011 to 12.3% in 2014](#). Relatively high levels remain in Brimbank, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Hume and Darebin.

Psychosocial Support Services will be delivered across the whole of the NWMPHN catchment. However, NWMPHN is releasing two tenders to consider the different needs of and service availability in the Western and Northern regions of the catchment.

Agencies are encouraged to consider applying for either the Northern or Western regions and will be required to submit two applications if seeking to provide services across both areas.

The NWMPHN Psychosocial Support Services tender will cover the remainder of this financial year and will extend to 30 June 2021. This tender will integrate with NWMPHN's other continuing [mental health services](#).

A tender briefing is being held at 3pm, Friday 1 February. Register to attend the briefing [here](#).

Applicants are encouraged to submit innovative tenders and will need to register and apply through Tenderlink: Visit <https://www.tenderlink.com/mpcn/>

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ABOUT PHNs

Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health, PHNs began operation on 1 July 2015 and are responsible for coordinating primary health care and facilitating improved health outcomes in their local community. Melbourne Primary Care Network operates the North Western Melbourne PHN.

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We acknowledge the peoples of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which our work in the community takes place. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.