

Wednesday, 24 April 2019

New tender: Increasing access to culturally responsive primary health care



North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) is investing \$500k to improve access to culturally safe primary health care services in the after-hours period.

Culturally responsive care includes services that respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, in a manner that affirms their worth and preserves their dignity.

42 per cent of people speak a language other than English at home in Melbourne's north and west which can create barriers in receiving adequate health care.

NWMPHN CEO Adjunct Associate Professor Christopher Carter said research indicates people from CALD backgrounds are less likely to consider contacting a general practitioner before visiting a hospital's emergency department.

"Not having a regular GP and having limited knowledge of the Australian health system and the services available can mean primary health services are overlooked," A/Prof Carter said.

"This program will ensure CALD communities can access culturally safe primary health care when they need it, which will in turn help these communities to understand primary health care treatment options and the broader service system."

NWMPHN is seeking to commission the design, delivery and evaluation of a trial program that will help to address these issues.

A collaborative partnership between the multicultural sector and the primary health care sector is required to meet the objectives of this new program.

Interested applicants are being asked to identify a CALD group or groups that have the most need and to write an application in response to this.

Applicants will need to apply through Tenderlink. Visit <https://www.tenderlink.com/mpcn/>

For all enquiries:

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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.



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