



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 13th September, 2013

WESTERN NSW STRATEGIC HEALTH SERVICES PLAN LAUNCHED

Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Western NSW, Kevin Humphries, has welcomed the launch of the Western NSW Local Health District's new Strategic Health Services Plan in Molong today.

Mr Humphries congratulated the WNSWLHD on the development of the Plan, which will guide the planning, funding and provision of public health services for the Western NSW region for the next three years.

"The collaboration with Medicare Locals and the focus on developing more integrated primary health care pathways for patients is very positive and will ensure health services are well coordinated with better outcomes for patients," Mr Humphries said.

"I am also particularly pleased to see that the specific health needs of the State's far-west communities are being addressed through this Strategic Plan."

The Strategic Health Services Plan outlines five key priority areas, which are:

- The development of a coherent system of care;
- Supporting high performing primary care;
- Closing the Aboriginal health gap;
- Improving the patient experience; and,
- Living within the Health District's needs.

"It's very encouraging to see that one of the Plan's priority areas is to improve the patient experience to ensure that patients and their carers feel safe, respected and cared for, and involved in the planning of the care being provided," Mr Humphries said.

"It' is also encouraging to see that the plan shows a commitment to the Multi-Purpose model of care which provides a good configuration of services for rural communities including inpatient and aged care services."

Mr Humphries also acknowledged the Strategic Plan's identification of closing the Aboriginal health gap as one of its key priorities.

"This is a very important issue in our Western communities and I believe the work proposed in the Strategic Plan, in partnership with Aboriginal community controlled health services and Medicare Locals, will assist greatly in improving Aboriginal health outcomes," Mr Humphries said.