



Primary Care Partnerships

KEY MESSAGES

- Primary Care Partnerships were established in Victoria in 2000 and there are now 28 across the state, strengthening relationships with local primary care, health and community sectors to support prevention, early intervention and equitable access to services.
- Primary Care Partnerships are based on the philosophy that together partner organisations can achieve much more than can be achieved working on their own.
- Primary Care Partnerships across Victoria are undertaking work that delivers on over 20 state government policies and are actively embedding state government policy and reform in local communities across Victoria.
- With more than 850 members from a range of sectors including health, education, employment Primary Care Partnerships are working with their local communities, partner organisations and other key stakeholders to deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Taking a place-based approach, Primary Care Partnerships work across a range of settings including schools and other education settings, health services, workplaces, sporting clubs, correctional centres and rural community settings.
- Through their well-established and trusted connections, Primary Care Partnerships are working towards ensuring their local communities achieve the same outcomes as those identified for all Victorians, that is, being healthy and well, being safe and secure, being connected to culture, having the capabilities to participate and a community that is liveable.
- To achieve these outcomes, Primary Care Partnerships are focusing their efforts on a range of complex health and social issues including preventing family violence, reducing alcohol and drug related harm, preventing harm from gambling, improving mental health and wellbeing, increased healthy eating and active living, oral health, social and cultural connectedness, community resilience, housing and homelessness, education and employment, healthy ageing, climate change, mobilising community will, reducing chronic disease and disability.
- Primary Care Partnerships are also identifying shared measures to track outcomes and to ensure they are making a difference locally and collectively across Victoria.
- While Primary Care Partnerships strive for positive outcomes for the whole of community much of their effort focuses on the most vulnerable members of a community. To address these inequalities Primary Care Partnerships are working alongside a range of population groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, LGBTQI communities, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, people with a disability, children and families, rural communities and farmers, older and younger populations.
- Primary Care Partnerships achieve results by drawing together the right people around a common agenda, and helping them align their efforts, by raising awareness, pooling current funding or mobilising new funding, by activating community will and aligning the agenda with government policy.
- Primary Care Partnerships build capacity both within their membership and the community. They provide resources, training, strategic guidance and advice; they act as a conduit for information, data, and evidence and guide and promote best practice. The impact of this is improved local and state-wide collaboration; reduce duplication and improved health and wellbeing for all Victorians.



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EXAMPLES FROM ACROSS the UPPER HUME Catchment

- Collaborating with local communities and services to establish and support networks to address the issue of family violence prevention from a local perspective
- Increasing knowledge and skills of both organisational staff and communities to understand and undertake effective and participatory monitoring and evaluation actions. In the case of the Gambler's Help program, this resulted in a change to state wide expectations.
- Bringing organisations and consumers together to identify a system to enable people with chronic conditions to maximise their well-being through the 'COPD' project
- Supporting organisations to better understand how to partner with consumers and communities through a series of workshops and forums as well as co-producing guidelines with consumer partners to increase consumer participation.
- Enabling and supporting the development of Age Friendly communities and systems through a local government area consortium
- Identifying local perspectives on increasing the well being of small rural communities
- Coordinating the local Aboriginal Eye Health Partnership in collaboration with local Aboriginal and other health organisations. The partnership comes together to map the journey of Aboriginal people in Upper Hume through all the stages of eye health screening and treatment; identify gaps and opportunities to address these.
- Supporting Local Governments to develop and implement Health and Well-being Plans
- Supporting organisations to better include refugee communities in their decision making structures through providing a series of workshops and discussion opportunities with two large health services and members of local refugee and multicultural communities
- Working with farming communities to utilise and build on their resilient qualities
- Building the capacity of organisations to respond to issues from a place-based perspective. A Deakin University project addressing Childhood Obesity utilises UHPCP staff to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of identified place-based strategies.
- Supporting and enabling funded prevention agencies to undertake a catchment wide plan and implementation strategy to improve healthy eating and active living over 8 years.
- Partnering with the Health Issues Centre to ensure a rural perspective is included in the My Aged Care Inquiry

For further information about Upper Hume Primary Care Partnerships key initiatives, please refer to the UH PCP website www.upperhumepcp.com.au