

HEALTH CARE AT COMMUNITY HOUSE IS GOOD MEDICINE

A community house in Benalla, which offers a medical service once a fortnight, has hit on a formula that sees locals attending more health care appointments than they ever have.

Central Hume Primary Care Partnership (Central Hume PCP) Executive Officer, Huw Brokensha said the program at the Waminda Community House is just one example of how the Central Hume Primary Care Partnership has been improving the health and wellbeing of people in the region for 20 years.

Central Hume PCP, which covers Alpine, Benalla, Mansfield and Wangaratta council areas, is one of 28 PCPs in Victoria, all celebrating 20 years in 2020.

“It’s a good outcome when people in the community use this service regularly and tell us it’s because they feel so comfortable in this environment,” Mr Brokensha said.

“That’s benefiting them, their health and the community health overall. These are outcomes worth celebrating,” he said.

The Waminda one-stop health shop had its origins as a visiting dental health van in 2016.

“When 36 people from the Benalla community booked in for a dental appointment in 2016 and none of them had ever had a dental health check before, all the organisations involved in the initiative knew they were onto something,” Mr Brokensha said.

The key to PCPs is that they work to enable collaboration on multiple complex challenges facing the community.

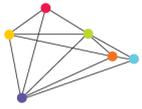
“The Central Hume PCP supported the concept of health outreach services delivered at the Community House and also helped with planning and research regarding identifying need in the community, working behind the scenes to connect the relevant organisations at a local, state and interstate level to support the delivery of the services,” he said.

Janet Symes, Waminda Community House Co-ordinator said the partnership has seen both growth of the services offered and in attendance.

“With the assistance of Central Hume PCP’s outreach worker Chris Thorne, word of mouth and social media platforms, the ‘one stop health shop’ has increased since its inception, with regular and new members attending,” Ms Symes said.

“We have seen so many changes for people’s health. A big part of that is the social benefits. The co-location with the community house means we reduce isolation, people get out in the community, they come in and use the house for other reasons like doing a course or picking up some food,” she said.

The fortnightly Waminda Community House health program is delivered through a GP van, which also has an Aboriginal Health nurse. The dental van and optometry services are scheduled several times a year and coincide with the GP van day, making it a one-stop shop.



Central Hume
Primary Care Partnership

MEDIA RELEASE

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Please see attached case study

For more information please contact: Huw Brokensha on 0436 690 156