

# MEDIA RELEASE



9 January 2017

## New Psychological Support Services contracts announced

Central and Eastern Sydney PHN is pleased to announce that the successful applicants for our new Psychological Support Services (PSS) contracts are:

- Australian Primary Mental Health Alliance
- Lilly Pilly Counselling
- Sydney Mindcare
- The Gender Centre
- Sunflower Health Services with WEAVE Youth and Community Services and Twenty 10

The five **headspace** centres at Ashfield, Bondi Junction, Camperdown, Hurstville and Miranda, have also been individually commissioned to deliver Psychological Support Services to young people in our area aged 12-25 years.

In 2017, our PHN will use \$4 million of Commonwealth funding to enable these organisations to provide short term face-to-face psychological services to more than 3,500 individuals in our community with mild to moderate mental illness. Specifically, our PSS program targets underserved and hard to reach groups.

The new PSS program replaces CESPHN's Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) program as of 9 January 2017. The change to this new commissioning based model comes in response to Commonwealth PHN guidelines which now require all clinical services delivered by primary health networks to be commissioned out. CESPHN's Psychological Support Services program will build on the strengths and success of our ATAPS program, generating economies of scale by contracting fewer organisations across our region, and moving away from multiple individual per provider agreements.

Central and Eastern Sydney PHN Chief Executive Officer Dr Michael Moore said, "This change reflects the key role we now play in the mental health reform process, particularly through the planning and commissioning of primary mental health services at a regional level."

Many contractors who were providing services under our ATAPS program have already registered with one of the successful applicants to continue their services under the new PSS model. There are still vacancies within the new organisations which local providers are invited to fill.

Preparing to implement PSS has been a rigorous process, shaped by our needs assessment, an extensive co-design process conducted in July and then the competitive tender for contracts. A panel of CESPHN and independent representatives considered a wide range of applications. The successful organisations displayed the best attributes, good industry connections and a depth of resources required to best deliver these services.

"We look forward to working with these organisations, to ensure the mental health services delivered in central and eastern Sydney continue to meet the needs of our community," continued Dr Moore.

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