

Victorian Primary Care Partnerships (VicPCPs)



Future Directions 2018-2020



About VicPCPs

Victorian Primary Care Partnerships (VicPCPs) is a voluntary alliance of Victoria's 28 PCPs. The VicPCPs Leadership Executive have governance responsibility for VicPCPs activity. Each PCP have their own governance processes and structure. VicPCPs exists to support and promote the Primary Care Partnership platform and the broader use of partnerships to achieve improvements in population health and wellbeing.

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VicPCPs acknowledges the traditional owners of country and pays its respects to Elders past and present.

Acknowledgements

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Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|
| About VicPCPs | 2 |
| Acknowledgements..... | 2 |
| Executive Summary | 4 |
| What are Primary Care Partnerships?..... | 5 |
| VicPCPs..... | 6 |
| Our Vision..... | 6 |
| Our Mission | 6 |
| Our Principles – The way we work together..... | 6 |
| Shared vision and mission..... | 6 |
| Trust and respect | 6 |
| Collaboration and transparency | 6 |
| Flexibility and effectiveness | 6 |
| VicPCPs Future Directions High Level Plan | 7 |
| Key focus area 1:..... | 7 |
| Key focus area 2:..... | 7 |
| Key focus area 3:..... | 7 |

Executive Summary

This is an extremely important time for PCPs as the broader health and social care service system reforms are influencing the future of PCPs and other partnership platforms, networks and alliances. The VicPCPs Future Directions 2018 - 2020 sets out a high level plan with clear direction for state-wide PCP initiatives over the next 2 years, supporting the platform to collectively respond and align with current and emerging government policy and reforms.

Initiatives in the plan aim to:

- articulate PCPs partnership capabilities, skills and expertise and how these support current and emerging government policy objectives, local outcomes, and possible future planning and partnership platforms;
- support the development of a capability framework which describes core PCP workforce competencies and practice skills as well as evaluation of our work;
- identify the work facilitated by PCPs and incorporate the skills, knowledge and competencies the government has invested in over the past 17 years into any future directions/structures; and
- articulate the relationship between existing and new/emerging planning, partnership and place based structures, coordinate effective and efficient use of resources between platforms, avoid duplication and identify how to best add value to the existing system.

This work will reinforce existing evidence which demonstrates working in partnership, applying a place based approach to address complex health and wellbeing issues leads to better health and wellbeing outcomes.

What are Primary Care Partnerships?

The Primary Care Partnership (PCP) strategy, launched in 2000, aims to improve primary care in Victoria by delivering integrated and holistic services for consumers. The strategy supports health and human service organisations to work together to introduce common systems and practices, making it easier for Victorians to access the services they need. The PCP strategy supports primary health service organisations deliver integrated models of care, improve service coordination, and contribute to better health and wellbeing outcomes for Victorian communities.

PCPs have significant knowledge and experience in building partnerships dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of a defined community, across the continuum of care, from prevention to treatment. They connect over 800 organisations across Victoria, two thirds in rural and regional Victoria and one third in metropolitan Melbourne. They are local, regional and state-wide partnership platform/s with a level of maturity, experience and a significant record of achievement.

PCPs support governance and provide backbone support at a range of levels, including at a local level utilising place-based approaches, at regional levels through multiple collaborative partnerships, and at a state level through the Victorian PCPs.

The combination of their broad membership, cross-sector partnerships, engagement across the continuum of care, and operation at local, regional and state levels make PCPs a unique feature of the Victorian health and human services landscape. As such, PCPs make an essential contribution as Victoria undergoes a period of significant reform at local, state and federal levels, and can provide a unique and ongoing opportunity to support DHHS' effective implementation of State Government health and social policy and reforms at all levels.

PCPs develop, sustain and leverage these partnerships to:

- deliver health and wellbeing outcomes through place-based approaches in their local communities;
- reduce the impact of changes to the service system on our most vulnerable populations;
- assist health and social services to understand how to support consumer choice;
- identify areas where collaboration is possible and which can deliver greatest public value;
- provide the backbone support and establish governance structures to foster the sustainability of collaboration and partnership; and
- ensure there is not duplication of effort, provide an opportunity to implement other partnership and planning platform visions and strategies at a local level.

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Our Vision

A strong and integrated partnership platform guiding high-level strategy and delivering optimal health, wellbeing and equity outcomes for communities across Victoria.

Our Mission

To use our collective skills, capabilities and expertise to inform and influence the development of efficient, effective place-based partnership platforms.

Our Principles

Shared vision and mission

We proactively engage with reform processes and through an objective assessment of our collective strengths, we will pursue evidence-based approaches that improve equity, health and wellbeing for Victorian communities.

Trust and respect

We foster cohesion and commitment to each other and future directions, through inclusive co-design that is reflective of our diversity and flexible in its approach.

Collaboration and transparency

We navigate change through broad stakeholder engagement and inter-sectoral partnership, underpinned by open and clear communication, shared messaging and collective representation.

Flexibility and effectiveness

We foster innovation and momentum through an openness to discovery and new approaches, underpinned by robust governance, delegation and decision making processes.

VicPCPs Future Directions High Level Plan

Key focus area 1:

Map PCP capabilities, expertise, skills and outcomes to understand and showcase our strengths and inform the development of a framework which will support our future work as a best practice partnership platform

- 1.1 We will identify and define PCP partnership skills and expertise and how they support current and emerging government policy objectives, local outcomes, and possible future planning and partnership platforms.
- 1.2 We will develop a capability framework that describes and strengthens core PCP workforce competencies and practice skills and supports evaluation of our work.
- 1.3 We will commission a state-wide survey of members and other stakeholders to gather their perspectives on PCP platform skills and capabilities, value-add, and limitations.

Key focus area 2:

Strategically engage, influence and link with DHHS, other partners and platforms to respond to emerging government policy and identified gaps; avoid duplication and value add to current and future initiatives; and raise awareness of our collective skills, capabilities and expertise

- 2.1 We will develop an external stakeholder engagement and communications plan to ensure VicPCPs strategic representation at key decision-making forums and with key influencers.
- 2.2 We will strategically engage DHHS and other departments, other platforms, peak bodies and other stakeholders to ensure maximum alignment between our respective interests and objectives, and to mobilise resourcing in support of this plan.
- 2.3 We will advocate for the establishment of a cross-sector, inter-departmental engagement mechanism to explore future planning and partnership platform integration opportunities.
- 2.4 We will develop consistent messaging and marketing to increase visibility of PCPs with respect to our capabilities, expertise, skills and outcomes at 1.1.

Key focus area 3:

Engage across and within the PCP platform to continue to foster a culture of transparency, collaboration and trust; and to ensure staff and PCP members stay informed of progress against our plan as we work toward our shared goal

- 3.1 We will develop an agreed reporting and evaluation framework against VicPCPs Future Directions in existing priority areas (prevention, system integration, and family violence).
- 3.2 We will develop an internal stakeholder engagement and communications plan to ensure PCP governance groups, members and staff:
 - are actively involved in defining, planning and implementing future directions as they emerge;
 - are well supported to internally manage reorientation towards emerging state-wide directions in an increasingly competitive environment; and
 - consistently use shared messages and approaches in their local engagement with emerging state-wide future directions.
- 3.3 We will develop resources and key messages to support individual PCPs in their communication with other local stakeholders and communities.
- 3.4 We will establish appropriate governance structures and allocate (or seek) resources to engage specialist support and support sustainability as required.
- 3.5 We will develop a workforce retention and development plan to ensure skills and capabilities described at 1.2 are maintained and integrated within emerging future directions.