



**TITLE**                    **Buloke Loddon Gannawarra (BLG) Health Needs Analysis Implementation Plan**

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Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership (BLPCP)

in partnership with Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership (SMPCP)

**BACKGROUND**

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**Project Time Span – April 2018- April 2019**

A partnership across the Bendigo Loddon and Southern Mallee PCP boundaries has been established by health services and local governments of the three Shires of Loddon, Buloke and Gannawarra, called the BLG Health Network. All members are PCP partners in at least one of the PCPs.

BLPCP and SMPCP are active members in the Buloke Loddon Gannawarra (BLG) Health Network with a clear role of supporting health service planning and collaboration to improve the health system in response to the place- based needs and opportunities in Loddon, Buloke and Gannawarra Shires. Bendigo Loddon PCP was fortunate to be successful in tendering for the Loddon Gannawarra Health Needs Project in 2016. The Loddon Gannawarra Health Needs Analysis (LGHNA) was completed within timeframes and budget in December 2016 and the recommendations of the LGHNA underpin the current implementation plan project. The Implementation Plan translates the identified health needs priorities into Action Plans for each priority across the three Shires.

**Project Objectives**

- Develop a plan to inform and guide collaborative and strategic health service planning within the Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra Shires in the context of current state and commonwealth government priorities.
- Utilise population health planning and place-based approaches to improve the health and wellbeing of whole populations, and to reduce inequities between specific population groups, drawing on the knowledge and local expertise of community members.

**PARTNERS**

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- Kerang District Health
- Northern District Community Health
- Boort District Health
- Southern Mallee PCP
- Loddon Shire Council
- Cohuna District Health
- Bendigo Loddon PCP
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Dingee Bush Nursing Centre
- Murray PHN
- DHHS Regional Office – Loddon Area
- DHHS Regional Office –Mallee Area
- Inglewood District Health Service
- Mallee District Aboriginal Service
- Buloke Shire Council
- East Wimmera Health Service
- Mallee Track Health and Community Services



## METHOD

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The LGHNA identified clearly the 4 health priorities for the area researched was Heart and Respiratory Health, Diabetes, Mental Health and Oral Health. Building on this and the data collated for the LGHNA recommendations for action were made under the headings of Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment, and the Health System.

As the Implementation Plan Project Lead BLPCP undertook the Project design and facilitation supported by the development of an engagement and communications strategy for services across the 3 Shires. Additional data was sought to align Buloke information with that collated for Gannawarra and Loddon Shires, with the same health priorities identified. The environmental scan was updated along with data

Service Provider consultation Workshops were designed and facilitated for each of the 4 health priorities eliciting place-based responses and local initiatives to develop the plans to enable action on the LGHNA recommendations. All three Shire health services and local government representatives participated in the workshops.

The plan was designed at two levels – an Executive Summary and a detailed place-based action plan for each health priority and each Action area heading. Drafts of the plan were taken to the BLG Health Network for approval and commitment of each organisation to work together on achieving the plan outcomes. BLG Network members have contributed a small amount of funding to support the plan implementation and the DHHS Regional office have supported a position for one year to assist in the establishment of the work.

The BLG Network invited Minister Mikakos to launch the BLG Implementation plan in June 2019.

The PCP contribution to the success of the Project has been the existing partnership platform on which to build the planning, support for the established and trusted relationships across the BLG Network organisations, the confidence to lead collaborative work across organisations from a position of strong local knowledge and engagement, and the skills and experience in planning and partnership facilitation.

## OUTCOMES

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- 1 Health Service Strategic Plan alignment analysis to identify common goals as a resource for BLG Network planning
- 2 Environmental scan to update context for service planning
- 3 Implementation plan development for each of the 4 Evidence based priority needs identified through individual and workshop forums attended by Buloke, Loddon and Gannawarra health services personnel
- 4 Implementation plan includes actions, roles, responsibilities, resources required, monitoring frameworks and recommendations for health system advocacy
- 5 Identification of common systems development to support the actions of the implementation plan