

Media Release

Review welcomed as Primary Care Partnerships win temporary reprieve

16 October 2019

The Statewide Chair of Victorian Primary Care Partnerships, Kevin Feeney, has welcomed written confirmation that the State's twenty-eight health care partnerships will be funded to mid-2020, with a review to occur in the interim.

The funding extension and review was confirmed in a letter to all Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs) last week following a parliamentary debate in September, and PCPs initiating a #SecurePCPsFuture campaign in early October.

'We welcome an open and meaningful review of our work. This will be the first review of PCPs since we were established in 2000 and it is something we have been requesting now for some time', Kevin Feeney said.

The Department of Health and Human Services has committed to working with PCPs to plan the way forward, discussing how PCPs can participate in the review, and how PCP program learnings can be captured.

'It is vital for the success of the review that PCPs have an active role in shaping its focus, direction and conduct. One of our great challenges is that the nature of our work is often poorly understood.

Victorian PCPs reacted swiftly to government suggestions their work may have been taken over by metropolitan and regional partnerships, Orange Door services and Primary Health Networks.

'All of these platforms form an important part of Victoria's partnership and planning ecosystem, but it would be a mistake to think we are all the same', Mr Feeney said.

'We are not service providers like the Orange Door, we do not commission services like the Primary Health Networks, we are not government-led planning bodies like the regional partnerships.'

'Primary Care Partnerships occupy a space between all of these other platforms. We are place-based and community-led; we deliver primary prevention activities the others are not set up to provide.'

A new publication [Contributing to better health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities: Examples from around Victoria](#) was recently released showcasing nearly thirty case studies demonstrating how PCP work aligns with and supports the achievement of key government priorities.

'None of the other platforms are set up to support the kinds of local community partnerships we engage - in areas like family violence prevention, gambling addiction, mental health first aid, cultural safety and inclusion, food security, chronic disease prevention and climate adaptation.'

'We acknowledge the planning and partnership landscape has significantly changed in twenty years. We have been leaders in that time building the evidence base for the effective partnership approaches upon which the government relies. PCP staff across the state have very highly regarded expertise in this work, delivering significant value add to government for very low cost.'

'We look forward to hearing more about the review process and timelines. We stand ready to work with the Department and Minister to ensure PCPs effectively adapt to reflect the changing needs of our local communities,' Mr Feeney concluded.

For more information please contact: Kevin Feeney, VIC Primary Care Partnerships Chair on 0418 202 501 or email kfeeney@bestchance.org.au

More information about the #SecurePCPsFuture and other resources is available [here](#).