

Media Release



1 April 2021

The Victorian Primary Care Partnerships welcome the opportunity to work with the Department of Health over the coming 12 months as part of a coordinated and integrated approach to prevention and health promotion in our communities.

Primary Care Partnerships were established in Victoria in 2000 to strengthen relationships across local primary care, health and community sectors and support prevention, early intervention and equitable access to services. A review of the Primary Care Partnerships network was released in 2020 with the Department writing to Primary Care Partnerships yesterday outlining their intention to work with Primary Care Partnerships to consider their future in the context of the review and recent health system reforms.

The State-wide Chair of Victorian Primary Care Partnerships, Gregg Nicholls, acknowledged the commitment from the Department to work closely with Primary Care Partnerships to design their future.

‘As catchment-based voluntary alliances of health and community service organisations, we have worked together for 20 years to maximise health and wellbeing outcomes, promote health equity and avoid unnecessary hospital presentations and admissions’, Mr Nicholls said.

‘We also know after 20 years we have to change and evolve how we support our communities and we have been working closely with the Victorian Government to outline how we can work in partnership to transition to a new model’, he said.

‘We acknowledge the government’s commitment to ensure that the high value functions of PCPs are maintained and strengthened and we are excited to work with the Department, Minister, our partners and our stakeholders to secure the partnership’s future’, Mr Nicholls said.

Primary Care Partnerships connect more than 850 organisations across health, education, community service and local government with local communities to support them through work such as sharing data, undertaking integrated planning, providing workforce and resource development and assisting community participation. The assistance supports delivery of over twenty state government priority strategies, actively embedding government policy and reform in local communities through more than 150 distinct initiatives.

‘This outcome is a fantastic recognition of the work undertaken within all PCPs. Whilst we still have a fair way to go, we can now collectively work towards ensuring that strengths of the platform remain in a modern world. We are keen participants in this process and look forward providing our sector knowledge and supporting the design of future models to ensure their success’, Mr Nicholls concluded.

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For more information please contact Gregg Nicholls, VIC Primary Care Partnerships Chair on 0407 525 376 or email greggn@iprimus.com.au