



Moving toward Self Determination Memorandum of Understanding July 2021

This Memorandum of Understanding is an agreement between the Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership (LHPCP) member agencies and the Aboriginal organisations operating within the Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires.

'Self-determination is an 'ongoing process of choice' to ensure that Indigenous communities are able to meet their social, cultural and economic needs.'¹

We recognize that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants and custodians of our lands and natural environment, and we pay respect to their elders, past, present and emerging, their traditions and their culture. We also acknowledge that LHPCP partner organisations have existing partnerships with Aboriginal organisations, strategic planning commitments and implemented multiple actions to increase understanding and inclusiveness with staff, communities and our organisations. These are building the foundations for Aboriginal Self-determination.

The LHPCP partners commit to continuing the journey toward Aboriginal Self-determination by continuing to engage, partner and collaborate with the Aboriginal organisations and community, and ultimately improve their health and wellbeing outcomes.

We will do this by undertaking to:

- Continue conversations with Aboriginal community to understand the challenges, complexities and strengths to improve access to healthcare and services delivered in the Catchment.
- Incorporate Aboriginal Voice in considering a whole system approach to our approach to improving Aboriginal health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Strengthen authentic collaboration and consultation with Aboriginal organisations, the Lower Hume Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Project Worker, and community.
- Build and extend existing commitments to include collaboration and eventually Self-determination; for example, organisation's Reconciliation action plans, Diversity, Wellness and Reablement plans, or Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans.
- Value, respect and understand our Aboriginal history, culture and traditions and provide culturally safe environments and service provision.
- Develop an action plan and assessment framework to measure our progress, then review as our commitment to Self-determination and this MOU.

This MOU declares our shared commitment to work together with community, health and community services organisations across the Lower Hume area on the journey toward Self-determination for indigenous peoples, ensuring they have a genuine voice in determining the services delivered to their communities.

Signatories to this *Memorandum of Understanding* recognize that effective communication and cooperative working relationships are integral to achieving shared objectives. We commit to collaborating and move toward Self-determination with all partners to improve Aboriginal health and wellbeing through active participation and engagement.

**This MOU will be reviewed annually.
Next review – July 2022**

¹ Victorian Public Sector Commission website - <https://vpssc.vic.gov.au/html-resources/aboriginal-cultural-capability-toolkit/aboriginal-self-determination/#:~:text=What%20is%20Aboriginal%20Self%2Ddetermination,a%20separate%20Indigenous%20state>.

Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding - Moving toward Self Determination:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie'.

Debbie Rogers, CEO, Alexandra District Health
Date: 07/07/2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela'.

Angela Armstrong, Director, FamilyCare
Date: 07/07/2021



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David'.

David Naughton, CEO, Kilmore District Health
Date: 07/07/2021



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo'.

Jo Wilson, Manager Community Strengthening, Mitchell Shire Council
Date: 07/07/2021



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Collier'.

Stuart Collier, Acting Manager Community Wellbeing, Murrindindi Shire Council
Date: 07/07/2021



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM'.

Amanda Mullins, CEO, Nexus Primary Health
Date: 07/07/2021



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ward'.

Ward Steet, CEO, Seymour Health
Date: 07/07/2021



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise'.

Louise Sharkey, Acting Manager & DON, Yea & District Memorial Hospital
Date: 07/07/2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew'.

Matthew Burns, CEO, Taungurung Land & Waters Council
Date: 07/07/2021