

SOUTHERN MALLEE PRIMARY CARE PARTNERSHIP INTEGRATED PLANNING PROCESS

BACKGROUND

Following the development of the Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership (SMPCP) Strategic Plan 2017-2021 in 2016/2017, SMPCP began working with each of the three SMPCP Local Government Area Partnerships - SMPCP Buloke Strategic Health and Wellbeing Partnership (Buloke Partnership), Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting (GLAM) and SMPCP Swan Hill Health and Wellbeing Partnership (Swan Hill Partnership) - to develop a shared vision, purpose and plan for the next four years. The aim of the process was to have an integrated partnership plan (including Integrated Health Promotion Funded agencies and council Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) for each partnership to collectively work from for the four year period. SMPCP and the three LGA Partnerships identified the benefits of a collective partnership action plan, which include: pooling of resources, working towards a common goal/focus, utilising strengths, differing skill sets and capacity, strengthening relationships and shared work within each LGA, developing collective approach designed by and agreed upon by members of the partnership to work toward, creating a greater sense of ownership.

PARTNERS

Buloke Partnership – Buloke Shire Council, East Wimmera Health Service, Mallee Track Health and Community Service, SMPCP

GLAM – Cohuna District Hospital, Gannawarra Shire Council, Kerang District Health, Mallee District Aboriginal Services, Mallee Family Care, Murray Primary Health Network, Northern District Community Health, Victoria Police, SMPCP

Swan Hill Partnership – Anglicare Victoria, Mallee District Aboriginal Services, Mallee Family Care, Mallee Sports Assembly, Robinvale District Health Service, Swan Hill Neighbourhood House, Swan Hill District Health, Swan Hill Rural City Council, SMPCP

METHOD

Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership brought the existing LGA Partnerships together to collectively develop, implement and evaluate a partnership action plan for the four year period, with a focus on priority areas to improve health and wellbeing of communities across the Southern Mallee. The need for a collective partnership action plan was identified by the partnerships, with guidance from SMPCP and the Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015-2019. It was clear, through the strength of existing relationships, communication and previous partnership efforts, that there was common ground and partnership members were ready, willing and had capacity to move forward in their work together. SMPCP facilitated and negotiated the development process, which included organising meetings for discussion and decisions, researching and developing documents and providing advice on the documents, models and processes (decision making criteria for priority, collation of local data, action plan templates), coordinating communication between meetings, utilising and strengthening existing relationships and establishing new connections. This process also incorporated or aligned with municipal public health and wellbeing plans and integrated health promotion funded agency plans in all three LGAs, enabling a dedicated partnership approach.

OUTCOMES

All of community – each of the three LGA Partnerships continues to progress their action plans throughout the four year period. Developing shared priorities and having organisational commitment for the 2017 – 2021 period has led to numerous opportunities to collaborate and improve health and wellbeing of the Southern Mallee communities at a local level that organisations would not be able to complete alone. Utilising partnerships, and making the most of differing skills and knowledge of organisations and individuals involved in the partnership, can increase capacity, resources, reach, value and success of initiatives.