***Rural Victoria Mental Health Initiative/Drought support program***

*“Collective partnership driven through Wimmera Primary Care Partnership in response to seasonal conditions affecting the health and wellbeing of communities. Delivering Mental health support in localised training, support by the Rural Outreach program and creating opportunities for communities to come together to build resilience and reduce social isolation. Bringing together partners across all sectors of the community to have a collective impact through a shared vision and genuine intent to make our communities the best they can be.”*

***Telehealth***

*“Develop new models of care utilising Telehealth to enable access and equity for rural patients to improve the health of our communities. Bringing health services and specialist care together so patients can receive care within their communities with support from their trusted local health professionals. Alleviating the time and cost to the patient and their loved ones reducing barriers to care and therefore increasing compliance and health outcomes.”*

***Working together for healthy communities***

*“Creating a shared health prevention strategic plan to collectively reduce the prevalence of chronic disease risk factors and maximise health and wellbeing across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region. Targeting priority areas of Healthy eating, physical activity and social connection individualised to each of our communities and addressing the inequalities in particular communities and population cohorts. Through a collective partnership, strategies are effective with place-based approaches from partners who live and work in their community.”*

***The Rural Outreach Program***

*“Through a collective concern for the health and wellbeing of our communities, the Rural Outreach Program was initiated to provide a place-based model. It is non-clinical, responsive and provides navigation support to services particularly mental health. No GP referral is required and there is no cost. The Rural Outreach program has been integral in addressing gaps in mental health support and overcoming distance barriers in helping people get through tough times and has helped over 150 community members.”*

***Rural Access Project***

*“A Community, place-based capacity building project that contributes to the active participation and inclusion of people with disability, including improved access to mainstream and community services. By coordination of the newly invigorated Wimmera Accessibility Network an advocacy platform for those in our community with a disability was developed. Driving the newly developed digital community directory platform to include the National Health Service directory information so that our community members that have a disability and their families have access to information regarding available mainstream services and how to access in one place.”*

***Mental Health First Aid***

*“An internationally accredited Mental Health First Aid program delivered by local people in the community. The course raises awareness in the community and in a rural setting enables community champions to support those needing help, to access it in a timelier manner and before it reaches crisis, requiring the resources of the hospital system. A suite of programs is available and offered in different settings for optimum and equitable access.”*

***Cultural Awareness Training – Yanng Ngalung Maligundidj***

*“Locally delivered with local content and local facilitators. Yanng Ngalung Maligundidj training enables the workforce of mainstream services to learn the local and national black history, policies and Acts, which have led to a society today in which our First Nations Peoples experience shorter life expectancy, higher rates of incarceration and multiple and complex health issues. Yanng Ngalung Maligundidj is an endorsed training program aimed at providing participants with the confidence and the skills to be more culturally responsive.”*