



Australian Government

20 OCTOBER 2017

JOINT RELEASE – DARLING DOWNS & WEST MORETON PHN, DAVID LITTLERPROUD MP & DRUG ARM

PHN provides extra drug and alcohol treatment funding for Drug ARM Warwick and Goondiwindi

An extra \$70,000 in Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services (DATS) will be provided to Drug ARM to deliver extra services in the towns of Warwick and Goondiwindi. This is an extension of the already existing contract for Drug ARM with Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN. The funding aims to provide an extra 360 service contacts or appointments for this area.

"Warwick and Goondiwindi have a real need for extra services to combat the methamphetamine problem and this funding will allow for more much needed drug and alcohol treatment services," according to Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN Chief Executive Officer Ms Simone Finch.

Funding from the Australian Government's Drug and Alcohol Program is being allocated by the Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN on a needs basis and has taken into account the shortage of commissioned services in these communities. It complements the Commonwealth's significant investment under the National Ice Action Strategy.

"During the 'Community Ice Forums' David Littleproud MP hosted earlier this year, it became clear there was a need for new drug and alcohol treatment services in Warwick. This was reinforced last month during a public consultation event hosted by the PHN in Warwick and Goondiwindi," Ms Finch said.

"It is the commitment of the PHN to provide the right services in the right place for people who need them."

Chief Executive Officer of Drug ARM Jody Wright said, this new funding allows more service contact which means more appointments and therefore greater access to services. We believe this will help people who have limited access to transport or health services in general to receive the treatment they need at a suitable time.

"Drug ARM workers are here to help people who have significant barriers to overcome in relation to their alcohol and other drug use. Our clinical team considers the person as a whole and deals with other issues they may have including legal, family, mental health and employment."

Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud held community ICE forums to facilitate an open and honest discussion and was pleased about the extension of services to combat addiction.

"That's why I held these forums – to connect the community with government departments to establish what was, and wasn't, working in different regions. I'm glad local voices have been heard and the PHN allocated additional services for a better targeted approach in my electorate," Mr Littleproud said.

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"While this service boost is a good starting point, we still need more support for rural communities and I will continue to work to ensure services continue to improve.

"As a father of three boys, the ICE scourge scares me because I've heard the heart-breaking stories of parents who watch helplessly as their children suffer the horrific consequences of addiction – that's why a targeted approach is so important and why I'm so passionate about better services in the bush."

Treatment types in Warwick and Goondiwindi will include:

- Comprehensive face-to-face counselling, detox support, relapse prevention and care coordination accessible in the home through the successful Creating Options program
- Private and confidential telephone and online counselling and relapse prevention support available to Warwick and Stanthorpe.

Ms Finch said, "While the program has a focus on methamphetamine use, treatment services are available to people affected by any drug and/or alcohol misuse.

"This is an example of the Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN working with the community and local representatives to determine the need and acting on it."

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ABOUT THE DARLING DOWNS WEST MORETON PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK:

The Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and improve co-ordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN works to bring together leadership, resources and ability from both primary and secondary health sectors across the region to deliver quality primary health care with better integration across secondary care and other care transitions and interfaces.

For more information about Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN programs go to ddwmphn.com.au/

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