



TEAM EFFORT: Attending the launch in Benalla were Rural City of Wangaratta manager, community and recreation, Marcus Forster, NESAY's Melissa van Bergen and Leah Waring, with Central Hume Primary Care Partnership executive officer, Jenny Ashby.

Social issues on community radar

By ANITA MCPHERSON

A FRAMEWORK developed to help organisations engage with the community on social issues was launched at the Central Hume Primary Care Partnership annual forum at the Benalla Performing Arts Centre last month.

Developed by North East Support and Action for Youth (NESAY) project officer, Melissa van Bergen, after the Rural City of Wangaratta's "Local Health and Wellbeing Group" identified the need for clear guidelines, the package includes a user friendly "framework, toolkit and poster" available for free to all community organisations.

Ms van Bergen said the framework was a valuable tool designed to support organisations to work more closely together to identify and address social issues, particularly in hard to reach populations.

She said the project had been funded by Central Hume Primary Care Partnership and

informed by local data and best practice examples.

"This more holistic view recognises that social issues are multi-faceted and require a coordinated approach, and the framework offers clearly defined procedures to enable this," she said.

"The feedback from individuals, groups and organisations within the local community was that the model had to be inclusive and have the capacity to actively engage all members of the community, offer insights into reaching 'hard to reach' groups, be easy to read, understand and implement, have a simple, user friendly layout, include resources and information to enable and prompt action."

NESAY executive officer, Leah Waring, said it was a great project to be involved in and anticipated it will be an important resource for many local organisations.

The model is available from NESAY's offices in Rowan Street or can be accessed from NESAY websites.

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