

Team effort to provide mental health services

GATEWAY Health and NESAY will share in \$4.8 million funding for primary mental health services across the region as Murray Primary Health Network's (PHN) preferred providers.

After an extensive competitive bidding process, the 11 preferred mental health service providers include partnerships between major health services, rural health services, mental health alliances and general practitioners.

The partners in the APMHA consortium also include Benalla Health, Alpine Health, Mansfield Health and Albury Wodonga Area Mental Health, while Corryong Health (UMHCS) will partner with Tallangatta Health and Walwa Bush Nursing to deliver services in the region.

Penny Wilkinson, Murray PHN executive director integration said as general practice is key to providing high quality primary mental health services, all preferred providers had to demonstrate strong GP engagement and local network knowledge.

She said the allocation of Federal Government funding for 2018/2019 would underpin the implementation of integrated Stepped Care in primary mental health across the Murray PHN region.

APHMA CEO Renee Hayden said the proposals submitted by the alliance for the North East region was strongly supported by local GP practices.