



PENINSULA HEALTH



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media release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peninsula partners announced as the Medicare Local for the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Region

A local partnership including the Peninsula GP Network, Peninsula Health and the Frankston and Mornington Primary Care Partnership is pleased to be one of the second tranche of Medicare Locals announced by the Federal Government today.

PGPN Chair Dr Damian Flanagan said "this is an historic time for health reform in this country in which the Federal Government has allocated \$477 million over four years to establish a network of Medicare Locals across the country."

"The three partners look forward to working with the Medicare Local Board of Directors alongside the community, the Local Health Network, GPs and other primary health care providers to deliver a better health system for the Peninsula region" said Dr Flanagan.

"A longstanding structural issue in our health system is the lack of a mechanism to coordinate GP, private care and public primary health care services. The Medicare Local is an opportunity to build this platform with input from major health care providers," the CEO of Peninsula Health Dr Sherene Devanesen said.

"A major new role will be to develop a population health plan for primary health care in this region that will include prevention and the development of solutions to gaps in services.

"The region is very well positioned to form a Medicare Local which will deliver outcomes for the local community based on the partnerships, programs and health services which have developed over many years" said Dr Devanesen .

With the establishment of the Medicare Local, current programs operated by the Peninsula GP Network will continue, including Mental Health Nurse and Psychology Services. Support services to general practice will also continue and be expanded to other primary health care providers.

"The Medicare Local will support GPs and other primary health care providers to work together, including the use of eHealth and the patient controlled electronic health record, Dr Gilian Kay the Chairperson of the PCP said.

"Over time, the community will see an increase in preventative health programs and a system of health care that is simpler to use and with better access to services than ever before", said Dr Kay said

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