

Frankston-Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local coming to you in January 2012!

On Friday 4 November we received notice from the Federal Department of Health and Ageing that our bid to form a Medicare Local in the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Area had been successful.

The local consortium, with PGPN as lead agency, included Peninsula Health and the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership as the founding partners, and Frankston City Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, the Royal District Nursing Service, the Mental Health Alliance and Monash University.



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.

With the establishment of the Medicare Local, current programs operated by the Peninsula GP Network will continue

“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.

“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”

With the establishment of the Medicare Local, current programs operated by the Peninsula GP Network will continue, including Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program and Access to Allied Psychology Services(ATAPS). 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 Gillian 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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Who are the Frankston-Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local Board?

The first Medicare Local Board has been formed and comprises: Dr Michael Cross (Chairman), Dr Peter Crow, Dr Peter Lynch, Peter Brookhouse, Terry Palioportas and Rob MacIndoe.

Our greatest focus will be to enable our community to navigate our local healthcare facilities in order to gain the best possible outcome.

Many of the above people will already be well known to Peninsula residents.

Collectively they bring to the new organisation a wealth of experience in Governance, General Practice, Disability, Mental Health, Aged Care, Community Health and Aboriginal Health.

The first tangible role of the new Board is to recruit the Chief Executive Officer and plans are underway to complete that task in the next few weeks.

In the meantime the Board will be looking at its own committee and skill structure, membership base, strategic planning and communicating with all the relevant stakeholders.

Chair of the Peninsula Medicare Local Board, Dr Michael Cross commented 'The Peninsula Medicare Local will aim to build on the work of the Peninsula GP Network and it's partners, and will widen its focus to encompass the delivery of primary healthcare in the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula area. General Practice needs to remain at the forefront but other healthcare providers need to be recognised and supported.'

The Frankston-Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local will work to improve the delivery of healthcare in our region and improve the connectivity between the various sectors.

Collectively they bring to the new organisation a wealth of experience in Governance, General Practice, Disability, Mental Health, Aged Care, Community Health and Aboriginal Health.

The Frankston-Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local will work to improve the delivery of healthcare in our region and improve the connectivity between the various sectors. Where deficiencies are found, work will be done to rectify the situation.

Our greatest focus will be to enable our community to navigate our local healthcare facilities in order to gain the best possible health outcomes.

Board of Directors & Staff

Board

Chairman	Dr Damian Flanagan
Vice Chairman	Peter Brookhouse
Treasurer	Jennifer Johanson
Members	Dr Michael Cross Dr Joanne Newton Dr Peter Crow

Staff

CEO	Kath Ferry
Senior Program Manager	Leisl Jackson
Administration	Sally Guthrie Rose Burns Jacqueline Martini Louise Addicoat
Finance	Fiona Clark

Newsletter Design	Sally Guthrie Jacqueline Martini
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Program Officers	Shareen Pearson Karan Kent Cleeve Charles Jackie Bange Suzanne Heppell
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Project Officer	Lynda French Ailsa Gregory
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NPS Facilitator	Jane Spence
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CTG Outreach Worker	Lisa Coppe
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Clinicians	Yolande Maltman Linda Biddle Neil Shaw
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Consumer feedback: Contact the CEO, Kath Ferry on T:03) 9708 8019 or email: contact@pgpn.org.au or download a *Consumer Feedback form* from our website & mail to 33 Jacksons Road , Mt Eliza VIC, 3930.

Submission of material or advertising: contact the network on: 03)9708 8019 or email: s.guthrie@pgpn.org.au.

Deadline for the next issue is: 23 November 2011

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