

# BOARD COMMUNIQUE

## June 2021

The Board of Northern Territory PHN (NT PHN) met on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 and considered a range of matters, noting the development and progress in the implementation of NT PHN programs and key performance indicators. The previous quarter for the period ending 31 March 2021 has been dominated by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic with NT PHN playing a key role to support the vaccination rollout. Key issues discussed included the following:

### Adult Community Mental Health Centre (AMHC)

AMHC is to be opened in October 2021 and will have a phased opening with phase one accepting direct referrals only. The centre will target adults aged 25 years and provide free of charge assessment, advice, treatment, and support to access services. Interests in participating in the activity either as a lead agency, consortium partner or co-located service provider were identified and then formalised through a closed request for tender. Stage 3 of the activity is currently underway and involves undertaking co-design of the centre with the Lead Agency - Neami Ltd.

### COVID-19

NT PHN continues to work collaboratively with NT Health and the Australian Department of Health to communicate vaccine-related information. Such engagements ensure coordinated messaging and share ideas and information. NT PHN is continuing to schedule regular social media messaging and E-News stories to align with the current vaccine situation and to encourage Australians to be vaccinated.

NT PHN representatives also continue to engage at the national level to share information, resources, and coordinate messaging as part of the national COVID-19 response.

NT PHN has been hosting twice-weekly information sessions with our GPs to address any concerns they have around the vaccination program. Along with this, NT PHN representatives have participated in an information session for multicultural community leaders and providers to address specific questions or concerns arising from the multicultural community.

### Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Planning

Regional Planning aims to better integrate mental health and suicide prevention services and activities by providing a platform for addressing problems people with lived experience of mental illness or suicide and their carers and families currently face when accessing care and support. This includes fragmentation of services and pathways, gaps, duplication and inefficiencies in service provision, and a lack of person-centred and culturally appropriate care.

The journey to better integrate mental health and suicide prevention services and activities has commenced with the completion of a joint mental health and suicide prevention foundation plan (2021 – 2022) delivered in February 2021 and progress towards the development and implementation of a comprehensive integration plan underway (by December 2022).

### NT PHN Councils

The Board considered the valuable feedback from the Councils on the following consultation topics:

- the role, structure, and governance of each Council with final recommendations to be considered at the next

Board meeting.

- Annual Work Plans
- Adult Mental Health Centre
- NT PHN Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Foundation Plan 2021 -2022
- Consumer Mental Health Website
- Implications of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety for the NT PHN
- NT PHN Sponsorships.

#### Other Matters

- The Board noted that the two non-executive Director positions have been advertised to fill the vacancies created by the expiry of the maximum appointment term of Ms Diane Walsh and Ms Judith Oliver. The upcoming vacancies will be advertised on various platforms including NT PHN's website.
- The Board noted the resignation of Dr Paul Burgess and acknowledged his relentless participation and valued contribution in achieving NT PHN's objectives. This vacancy will also be progressed prior to the 2021 AGM.
- In May 2021, the Board and NT PHN management met with the Company Members, NT Department of Health, AMSANT, and the Health Providers Alliance NT to provide an operational update.

The next quarterly Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Diane Walsh**

NT PHN Board Chair