Welcome to the ninth Information Bulletin about the Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol (MHDA) Review, now referred to as the MHDA Services Transformation project.

We are currently working on planning and implementing the steps necessary to identify the detail of the future service mix and the range of community services that align with the recommendations of the review. To do this, seven key projects were identified, each with a project lead and project reference group. The project leads come together with Meg Simpson, the Project Manager, to form the Services Transformation Project Team.

This information Bulletin focuses on: Project 7 Integration Pilot for Aboriginal People.

The Project Reference Group consists of members who have a diverse range of skills, expertise and cultural knowledge combined with a sound understanding of the challenges encountered in the delivery of MHDA services in rural and remote communities.

**Project Reference Group 7**

Patrick Rosser - District Coordinator Aboriginal MHDA (Project Lead)
Scott Clark - Clinical Director MHDA Services (Steering Committee Representative)
Jolene Kallus - A/Team Leader ICYF Dubbo & regions
Donna Stanley - Aboriginal MHDA Clinical Leader Orange & region
Pat Canty - Team Leader Bourke MHDA
Ashleigh Hull - Trainee Aboriginal MH Worker, CAMHS Bourke
Rhiannon May - Drug & Alcohol Specialist Condobolin
Lynette Bullen - Senior Drug & Alcohol Outreach Worker IDAT
Priscilla Wallace - Aboriginal MH Clinician Parkes (Outreach Condobolin)
Anne Worrad - Senior Occupational Therapist: Mental Health Rural Outreach Service

The purpose of the project is “to design a pilot programme aimed at enhancing integration in service delivery within a community with a high Aboriginal population, ensuring a focus on the needs of infants, children and youth”. It relates specifically to Recommendation 3 of the Mental Health Review: “ensure that future service configuration and models of service delivery enhance the responsiveness of services to the needs of Aboriginal people”.

This integration pilot program will continue to build on an existing body of work undertaken over the last 12-18 months in relation to the development of an Integrated Early Intervention Program in a community which has a high Aboriginal population. It’s aimed at improving the mental health outcomes for children and young people who are at risk of developing physical, emotional and behavioural disorders. It is likely that this program will be developed and implemented in Condobolin given the level of previous consultation and partnership work which has occurred between the MHDA service and local services prior to the Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Review process taking place.

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This project is very exciting and we are exploring the opportunity to embed an existing evidence based and culturally responsive early intervention program in partnership with the NSW Department of Education and Communities and the local Aboriginal Medical Service through a staged development process. This program focuses on providing an environment for young people to learn new skills and tools and for them to be linked to appropriate services to assist building resilience in the recovery journey for them in the context of their family and community environment.

Following this pilot the intention is to replicate this model in other communities.

**Next Info Bulletin:**
**Project 6 - Integration Pilots for people living in rural and remote communities**

We welcome your input either through the Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Review email address: WNSWLHD-MHReview@health.nsw.gov.au
Or by contacting Meg Simpson, the Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Review Project Manager: Meg.Simpson@health.nsw.gov.au

**More Information**

[Click here for Frequently Asked Questions](mailto:WNSWLHD-MHReview@health.nsw.gov.au) regarding the purpose and key findings of the Review.

Further feedback and questions can be emailed to WNSWLHD-MHReview@health.nsw.gov.au. These emails will be answered on a regular basis.

You can also view the “Rising to the Challenge: Mental Health Services Review video presentation by [clicking here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gmJoKZnBYM).

Updates will continue to be provided on a regular basis.