

Media Release

30 January 2023

South Western Sydney welcomes permanent Head to Health centre in Liverpool

A permanent Head to Health centre will be established in Liverpool this year to continue providing free and easy-to-access mental health support for the growing number of people living in South Western Sydney experiencing mental health concerns.

South Western Sydney Primary Health Network (SWSPHN) has funded Neami National to establish the permanent adult mental health centre in the Liverpool CBD. Neami established the state's first permanent Head to Health centre in Penrith in 2021.

The service will provide short-to-medium term support for people experiencing moderate or heightened mental health problems.

Locally, demand for mental health services is increasing and in the last six months of 2022 alone, the SWSPHN Mental Health central intake service processed 5,391 referrals to primary mental health services, a 35 percent increase from the same period in 2021.

The Australian Government's 2021 national rollout of Head to Health services included an intake and assessment phone line, adult mental health centres, satellite services and pop up hubs, and in future will include a kids mental health service.

People looking for mental health support can call the Australia-wide Head to Health intake and assessment phone line on 1800 595 212 to be linked with their nearest Head to Health physical service, or other mental health services specific to their individual needs and location.

The Liverpool centre will replace the current Head to Health pop up hubs set up in Liverpool and Bankstown in September 2021 as an interim measure to support access to mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SWSPHN Chief Executive Officer, Dr Keith McDonald PhD, said a permanent adult mental health centre in the heart of Liverpool was a welcome support for local people experiencing mental health problems.

"The permanent centre will continue to complement the Head to Health intake and assessment phone service," he said.

"The Head to Health service provides a welcoming, low stigma entry point to engagement, assessment and treatment of people who may be experiencing moderate to elevated levels of distress or crisis. It is designed to work alongside mental health services already provided within South Western Sydney."

Neami National Chief Executive Officer Tom Dalton said Neami was excited to be working in partnership to deliver this new and innovative service in Liverpool, as the current lead provider of a number of Head to Health services across Australia.

"Working in partnership and building strong relationships with both community and clinical services and the community helps to ensure all Head to Health guests are provided with the right care for their individual needs," he said.

The pop up hubs in Liverpool and Bankstown, delivered by One Door Mental Health, will continue operating until the Liverpool centre is established, expected mid-2023.

Residents can call 1800 595 212 to talk to a trained mental health professional who can help find support that's right for them.

South Western Sydney PHN is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting general practitioners, practice nurses and other primary health providers to deliver the best possible care for their patients. Our aim is to improve access to quality local healthcare for all residents living in the Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee LGAs, areas which include but are not exclusive to the major traditional nations of Dharawal (Tharawal) and Gundangarra (Gandangara).

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the waters and lands on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

For media interviews contact:
Michelle Pozo
Media and Communications Officer
T: 4632 3020

Level 2, 1 Bolger Street
Campbelltown NSW 2560
PO Box 90 Macarthur Square NSW 2560
T: 4632 3000 F: 4625 9466
www.swsphn.com.au