

Social Prescribing Initiatives: Western Victoria Primary Health Network

Service: Social Connection Partnership Grants

Main Component: Western Victoria Primary Health Network (WVPHN) has allocated \$350,000 to the Social Connection Partnership Grants project. These grants are focused on supporting the development of cross-sectorial partnerships within each of the four WVPHN sub-regions (Ballarat Goldfields, Geelong Otway, Great South Coast and Wimmera Grampians) and supporting activities that provide an immediate and localised response to the social and economic impacts of social isolation. Whilst these grants are not designed using a social prescribing model, the intention is that the models developed through this program may begin to build an evidence base towards social prescribing principles in the future.

Who is this for?: The grants aim to improve community health and wellbeing through social connectedness for people living within the four WVPHN sub-regions (Ballarat Goldfields, Geelong Otway, Great South Coast and Wimmera Grampians).

Outcomes: Ballarat Community Health, South West Healthcare, Wellways and Grampians Community Health will be part of a Regional Social Connection Leadership Group that will meet monthly to establish a model and Social Connection Charter for Western Victoria built on best available evidence and with community input. Together, these health services will use their localised knowledge and resources to deliver this region-wide program. The initial focus of the funding will be on establishing partnerships and collaboration between primary health care providers and community groups, identifying the needs of the community and then building on activities that address the social and economic impacts of social isolation currently emerging.

Organisations-involved: Western Victoria Primary Health Network, Ballarat Community Health, Grampians Community Health, South West Healthcare, Wellways Australia

Links: <https://westvicphn.com.au/about-us/latest-news/new-funding-to-help-ensure-no-one-feels-alone-in-the-community/>

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