

18 HEALTH SERVICES UNITE TO SUPPORT ELDERLY UNDER FEDERAL HOME CARE REFORMS

Event: Official launch of local Home Care health service consortium 'Community Interlink'

When: 8am – Thursday 22 February 2018

Where: Eastbank Centre, 70 Welsford Street, Shepparton on Thursday February 22.

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18 health services from northern and central Victoria and southern New South Wales have formed a consortium to provide aged care at home for senior Australians, in what is believed to be an Australian first.

The Community Interlink consortium is being officially launched in Shepparton on Thursday 22 February at Eastbank Centre in Welsford Street.

The consortium was established following major changes to Commonwealth Home Care funding reforms in 2015, in which smaller health services would find it challenging to continue providing Home Care.

By forming a consortium, each health service is able to provide sustainable Home Care in their own communities.

"We wanted to ensure that senior members of our communities would always have access to Home Care services from a locally governed provider," says GV Health Director Community Care, Gordon Ross.

"Local providers are those that can offer the highest level of support having local staff, with local knowledge and networks."

Community Interlink members include: GV Health (lead agency), Euroa Health, Natalia Health, Numurkah District Health Service, Benalla Health, Seymour Health, Yarrawonga Health, Mansfield District Hospital, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Indigo North Health, Yea & District Memorial Hospital, Beechworth Health Service, Albury Wodonga Health, Tallangatta Health Service, Nexus Primary Health, Alexandra District Hospital, Gateway Health and Kilmore & District Hospital.

"The primary goal of the consortium is to build on a shared philosophy and commitment to supporting local communities via local health services," Community Interlink Governance Group Chair, Suzanne Miller said.



“The focus is to build on the services’ capacity and track record of sustainable support to people at the point of need.’

“The consortium works toward building the capacity of member agencies to deliver direct care and coordinated care from their own employed staff, and to open up new contracting opportunities and consolidate existing revenue streams, promoting joint working and encouraging organizational learning and development.”

The consortium now supports approximately 300 Home Care clients regionally, with care coordinated via staff employed at the various health services.

“The consortium model has great potential to support local people across the range of available Commonwealth Home Support Programs and NDIS into the future.” Community Interlink Governance Group Chair, Suzanne Miller said.

“This will ensure our fantastic range of public health services stay connected to their communities in this rapid time of social reform. They are all separate, independent agencies with their own management and accountability structures and with their own unique way of operating. The differences and independence will be protected and strengthened under the value base of strong locally governed health and wellbeing services.”

“GV Health is proud to lead this excellent initiative,’ GV Health CEO, Trevor Saunders said.

“This initiative is about ensuring that they receive the best care and helping them to live independently in their own home for as long as possible; if they decide that’s where they want to be.”

“Our knowledge of our rural community has helped us to gain a fantastic understanding of what kind of care is needed to best support our seniors,’ Euroa Health CEO, Wayne Sullivan said.

“We want to ensure that people within our community are able to access locally-based Home Care.”

Other Launches

Four other official launches will be held in the following locations within the Community Interlink servicing

area: Wodonga - March 1, 2018
Huon Hill Hotel
Crn Reid & Havelock Streets

Yarrawonga - April 5, 2018
Club Mulwala
271 Melbourne Street

Wangaratta - March 15, 2018
Rinaldo’s Casa Cucina
56-58 Faithfull Street

Kilmore - April 12, 2018
Kilmore Trackside
East Street

** see www.communityinterlink.org.au for full details*

Local general practitioners, allied health and medical clinics staff are invited to the launches.



INFORMATION REGARDING HOME CARE FUNDING

In view of limited community awareness about what Home Care funding is and how a person may access it, a presentation and information flyer will be given to all in attendance about the provision, the eligibility and the application process.

A PDF copy of this flyer is attached and may be published with modifications approved by Community Interlink.

A Home Care Package is an Australian Government funding subsidy that allows individuals to purchase services to enable them to live independently in their own home.

Home Care Package recipients must select an approved provider, such as Community Interlink, to activate and manage their Home Care Package.

They may then purchase approved services with their funding package such as domestic support (meal preparation, cleaning, home modifications to meet care needs), transport, personal care (assistance with showering/bathing, getting in and out of bed, getting dressed/undressed), support to go shopping and run errands, allied health, medications management, home nursing, sourcing of hearing, mobility, visual and continence aides, support to attend social outings and events.

If a person is not eligible for a Home Care Package, they can purchase Home Care services privately via Community Interlink.

Celebration of the launches will continue with Community Interlink Client Luncheons being held on the same day of each official launch.

