

MEDIA RELEASE

August 6, 2020

Launch of the Joint Regional Plan for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Alcohol and Other Drug Services in the Gold Coast Region

A roadmap for working together to address the mental health, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drug needs of the Gold Coast community has been launched this morning. Gold Coast Primary Health Network, Gold Coast Health, Kalwun Aboriginal Development Corporation, service providers and individuals with lived experience, came together online, to launch the Joint Regional Plan for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Alcohol and Other Drug Services in the Gold Coast Region.

Gold Coast Primary Health Network CEO Matt Carrodus, said the plan was ambitious and outcome focused, and will provide future direction during challenging times, encompassing a wide range of recommendations.

“It has been a significant achievement to get as much input as we did and I would like to recognise those who contributed including a really broad range of people from the community. This included clinicians, individuals with lived experience, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities and our partners,” Mr Carrodus said.

Steering committee member Fern Hunter said the role of the lived experience community had been crucial in the plan’s development and was the beginning of an ongoing collaborative process.

“We’ve done our best, to speak our truth. The commitment of all stakeholders involved has made me feel very positive about it. I look forward to the future and seeing all the stakeholders work towards implementation of the plan.”

Gold Coast Health Executive Director for Mental Health and Specialist Services Malcolm McCann, said the plan will allow for greater integration across mental health, suicide prevention, alcohol and other drugs services on the Gold Coast and would help prepare for greater demand, particularly with the COVID pandemic.

“We never care for people in isolation or on their own. This will help us enhance our local service system and reinforce the notion of partnership. The plan will be the vehicle in which we come together,” Mr McCann said.

Kieran Chilcott, CEO of Kalwun Development Corporation said the inaugural plan was already being implemented.

“I am proud to acknowledge this will not be a dust collector – quite the opposite. We are already seeing this plan in action, commencing activities aligned with strategies outlined in the plan. The key message is we haven’t waited for this to launch – we are committed to getting the job done,” Mr Chilcott said.” Mr Carrodus said.

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