MEDIA RELEASE
LOCAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 30 October 2018

THE HUNT FOR ADVOCATES
Call out for volunteers to join the LHAC

The hunt is on for enthusiastic people in the community to join Local Health Advisory Committees (LHAC) across Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD).

Local Health Advisory Committees were formed in 2012 to provide an avenue for consumer feedback and advocacy for the public health service.

Today, the role of LHACs has evolved to incorporate primary health care as well as involvement in health service planning and development.

“As advocates for their local community, LHAC members are chosen for their passion and ability to represent their town’s health interests, needs and concerns,” said MLHD’s Community Engagement Manager Setchen Brimson.

“Many of our LHACs have a drive and commitment to improving health in their communities that has resulted in some great projects and outcomes for their community.”

In Temora, the LHAC arranged a Health Career Expo to highlight the growing need to inspire young people to explore the variety of careers available in the health sector.

“We know that ‘the growing your own’ concept works and helps retain young people locally, so that was our aim,” explained Temora LHAC Chair Dianne Scott. “The day was a huge success with students from local high schools and further afield exploring the range of careers on offer.”

LHACs in Culcairn, Henty and Holbrook banded together to organise the annual Billabong High School Forum to raise youth awareness around mental health, drugs and alcohol. The event had a range of speakers including sportspeople (?) Lauren Jackson and Stuart Baker talking about resilience and the impacts of mental health on themselves and families.

Many of the LHACs worked on cancer screening and awareness projects funded through the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network.

Through their persistence, Culcairn LHAC was able to secure bi-annual BreastScreen van visits as a result of their advocacy efforts.

Other great outcomes achieved as a result of LHACs voicing concerns on behalf of their community include the renal dialysis unit, which was built to provide dialysis services in Deniliquin, and the relocation of the ambulance entrance and emergency department at Finley Hospital.

EDITORS NOTE:
The Local Health Advisory Committees (LHAC) are a central connection between the local community and health service activities. Local committees work with facility managers to identify local service needs, ways to improve access to services, and to assist in planning and development. LHAC’s were created as a platform for community members to raise concerns and provide support for the Local Health Service. The groups provide valuable input into planning health services and sharing information with the local community.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES
For more information or an interview please contact Setchen Brimson on 0477 359 764 or email: setchen.brimson@health.nsw.gov.au
MEDIA RELEASE

Griffith LHAC have been exceptionally busy over the past 12 months, organising events and activities to raise awareness on various health issues in the community, and have also been instrumental in providing important feedback for the redevelopment of the Griffith Base Hospital.

“Our LHAC is very active and have a number of projects on the go at any given time,” said Griffith LHAC Chair Margaret King. “It’s incredibly rewarding as a volunteer getting some good results for our community, and ensuring we have a seat at the table to represent community views.”

LHACs have also been instrumental in the progress of work carried out as part of the Multipurpose Service Stage 5 program at Barham, Tocumwal, Holbrook, Culcairn and Tumbarumba.

“The key to being a good advocate is the ability to have your finger on the pulse of your local community and the ability to represent these community needs and concerns when you’re at the discussion table,” said Ms Brimson.

“We are looking for people from all walks of life to be involved and encourage anyone with the time and passion to make a difference to express their interest.”

To become a member of your local LHAC, you will need to complete an application form and have the required screening for your interested activity or group.


Applications can be completed online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JOIN_LHAC or speak with your facility manager for an application kit.

ends

Note:

Local Health Advisory Committees are proudly supported by Murrumbidgee Local Health District and Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network.