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Relationships Australia Victoria to deliver new headspace service in Sale

Work will start in the coming weeks on the new headspace satellite service in Sale.

The Australian Government allocated funding to Gippsland Primary Health Network (PHN) late last year to establish the specialised youth mental health service in Sale for the Wellington community. Following a tender process, Relationships Australia Victoria has been commissioned to operate the service.

Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, said it was anticipated the satellite service would be operational mid-year.

“We know there is a strong need for services, including mental health services in Sale and the new headspace satellite service will make it easier for young people in Wellington to access support,” Ms Proposch said. “It is important that young people can access expert health workers and vocational guidance staff in a safe, confidential and youth-friendly environment.

“We have worked closely with the headspace National office on this project and are pleased to announce Relationships Australia Victoria as the successful tenderer.”

headspace CEO Jason Trethowan said the organisation was “proud to be working with Gippsland Primary Health Network and Relationships Australia Victoria to create a local headspace satellite service for young people in the Sale area”.

“This is something we know the local community have been eager to see become a reality, and with this local service, we hope to meet the growing demand for young people, their families and friends,” Mr Trethowan said.

“It’s great that headspace, a service trusted by young people can provide this support to help young people get through tough times.”

Relationships Australia Victoria Chief Executive Officer, Dr Andrew Bickerdike, said the organisation would use its knowledge, experience and expertise from operating two existing Gippsland headspace centres, in Bairnsdale and Wonthaggi, to establish headspace Sale.

“We know just how important it is to have young people actively involved in designing and operating headspace services,” Dr Bickerdike said.

“That’s why we’re establishing a Youth Advisory Group, who will work collaboratively with our staff and consortium members, and play a key role in advocating for the needs of young people in the community and helping to ensure that services are accessible and youth-friendly.”

The location of the service is being finalised and details will be released as soon as they become available.

END OF RELEASE

Gippsland PHN is part of a national network of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia. Primary Health Networks are predominantly funded by the Australian Government to tackle identified national objectives and priority areas. Visit: gphn.org.au

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