



## Information bulletin - Healthy Ageing Service Response, Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network

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### BACKGROUND

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) have been established by the Commonwealth Government to plan and commission a range of primary health services designed to meet the needs of their catchment population. Their key objectives are to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

The Eastern Melbourne PHN (EMPHN) catchment extends from inner eastern Melbourne to the outer east and the north east of Melbourne and comprises a population of approximately 1.46 million people. The older persons population in the EMPHN catchment is projected to increase by 50% over the next 13 years.

EMPHN has identified a need to explore a more tailored health response to older persons aged over 65 years (over 55 years of age for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples) with mental health concerns.

### OBJECTIVES

The Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (EMPHN) has commissioned Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to:

*‘... work in partnership with EMPHN to co-design a ‘Healthy Ageing’ Service response for the EMPHN catchment.’*

The service response will:

- include considerations of mental health, alcohol and other drugs (AOD), psychosocial, and physical health needs of older people
- focus on a whole of person response
- consider the needs of people living in both the community and residential age care facilities (RACFs)
- be tailored to the needs of the EMPHN catchment, and in particular the geographic subregions of the PHN, and
- align with EMPHN’s stepped care model for mental health and its overall strategic direction.

### PROJECT APPROACH AND TIMING

The development of the Healthy Ageing Service Response will be conducted in five stages, commencing in July 2019 and due for completion in February 2020.

- (1) **Project initiation** to define scope and formulation of a detailed project management plan. This stage will be completed in July 2019.
- (2) **Literature scan** including:
  - (a) a review of national and Victorian policy and international and national guidelines regarding aged care and healthy ageing - considering physical health and mental health domains, and
  - (b) a description of best practice interventions for older persons with mental health issues, including suicidal ideation, AOD problems, and psychosocial disability. The literature scan will be complete by end July 2019.
- (3) **Formative evaluation of pilot programs** currently commissioned by EMPHN, namely:
  - (a) The Outer East Older Persons Mental Health Pilot delivered by Peter James Centre, Eastern Health, and

- (b) Residential Aged Care Facility Psychological Treatment Pilot delivered by Outcome Health. This stage will be completed by September 2019.
- (4) **Co-design of the Healthy Ageing Service Model.** Using information gathered during the first three stages of this project, a co-design process using a series of workshops and consultations will be facilitated. These will involve EMPHN and stakeholders including clinicians, service providers, RACFs, consumers and carers. A final report will be developed describing the major design features of the final service model. This process will be completed by November 2019.
- (5) **Development of commissioning approach** including a procurement strategy. This stage will be completed by February 2020.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, please contact:

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