

# *Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership Newsletter*

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*Welcome to the first Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership Newsletter. It is intended that this newsletter will be circulated bimonthly and aims to keep you up to date with what progress and activities the SMPCP has made.*

## **What is the SMPCP?**

The Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership is a voluntary alliance which was formed this year and aims to -

- improve the experiences and outcomes for people who use primary services and
- reduce the preventable use of hospital, residential and medical services through a greater emphasis on health promotion programs and by responding to the early signs of disease and or peoples need for support.
- a partnership approach will underpin the reforms

## **Who Is Funding this?**

The SMPCP is funded through the Department of Human Services, Victoria

## **Who is part of the SMPCP?**

The SMPCP takes in the three shires of Gannawarra, Buloke and Swan Hill.

Membership is made up of –

East Wimmera Health Service, Buloke Shire Council, Cohuna District Hospital  
Gannawarra Shire Council, Swan Hill District Hospital, Swan Hill Rural City Council,  
Kerang and District Hospital, Murray Plains Division of General Practice  
Mallee Division of General Practice, Mallee Family Care, Northern District Community  
Health Service and Bendigo Health Care Group.

## **What is Currently Happening with the SMPCP?**

### Service Coordination and Assessment Project

This project will be commenced in January 2001 and aims to develop a sustainable system for referral, information exchange and assessment (RIEA) between the client and service providers. This will involve consultation with consumers and service providers to ensure that all issues are identified prior to the new system being developed.

### Research, Planning and Development Project

This project will commence in January 2001 and the following outcomes are planned;

- a comprehensive needs assessment of the Southern Mallee region utilizing the social model of health
- a regional health promotion strategy
- development of a regional health plan and three municipal health plans.

## **What are the benefits for the health professionals?**

- Better health service planning and consultation
- Opportunity to address service gaps
- A readily accessible service provider directory

## **Where can I found out more about the SMPCP?**

Megan Hosken is the Executive Officer for the SMPCP and can be found at Mallee Family Care, 210 Beveridge Street, Swan Hill.