

30 May 2018

## Survey of health priorities underway

Residents across Western and Far Western NSW will have a chance to have their say on local health issues when the first stage of a probe into health needs kicks off this week.

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) in partnership with the Western and Far West Local Health Districts has commissioned a comprehensive survey of community views about health priorities and health service improvements.

The telephone survey will canvass the views of over 3,000 households in the region and will produce the most comprehensive information to date on community views on health priorities.

Experienced market research company, Deborah Wilson Consulting Services, and survey fieldwork company, National Field Services, will be conducting the survey.

“The results will give us reliable insights into the priorities and needs of people living in local council areas and in the region as a whole”, said WNSW PHN Chief Executive, Andrew Harvey.

“The telephone survey is one part of a wide review of health priorities – a Needs Analysis - which will also include several workshops with community and service providers across the region in June and July.

Residents contacted in the survey will be randomly selected and all feedback remains confidential.

The information collected in the telephone survey will help to better understand community priorities and strategically respond to these health needs.

“We really encourage the people contacted to participate in the survey and be open about their experiences and their view of the health priorities in their community because we genuinely want to know,” said Mr Harvey.

Participants will also have opportunity to register their interest in providing feedback in the future on health issues and they can also request an email summary of the health survey report.

For more information on the Needs Analysis including the upcoming workshops follow us on Facebook @wnswphn or visit [www.wnswphn.org.au](http://www.wnswphn.org.au)

## About Western NSW Primary Health Network

Western Health Alliance Ltd, trading as the Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) is one of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia, established by the Australian Government to support and strengthen general practice, Aboriginal health services, allied health professionals and other health professionals working in primary health care.

Our region is aligned with both the Far West and Western NSW Local Health Districts and covers much of rural and remote NSW, with a population that has diverse health needs. While our focus is primary health care, we work in partnership with other community and secondary care providers, hospitals and the broader community to help build a more integrated health system, especially for people living with chronic health conditions and their families and carers.

We acknowledge that we work on the traditional lands of many Aboriginal clans, tribes and nations. We commit to working in collaboration with our region's Aboriginal communities and peoples to improve their health, emotional and social wellbeing in the spirit of partnership.

The WNSW PHN's Aboriginal motif was created by Wiradjuri artist Lewis Burns.

*It's a story of living off the land. A strong flowing river provides fresh, clean water for those living beside it in camps. At campfires, people cook from the earth, with abundant natural foods they've hunted and gathered. As a community, people respect the earth and their country, united in a healthy lifestyle.*

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## Media Contact

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