

# Victorian Area-Based Pharmacotherapy Networks

## Background

The use of pharmacotherapy treatment has become established in Australia and many other parts of the world as an effective treatment for opioid dependence. Pharmacotherapy represents an important part of the Victorian Government's community response to the treatment of drugs and alcohol in the state.

The Victorian pharmacotherapy system is a community-based model where medical professionals and pharmacists work together to make pharmacotherapy available to clients in the community.

In 2014, five area-based pharmacotherapy networks were established throughout the state to ensure a more local approach in connecting care, driving best practice and improving pharmacotherapy client outcomes.

## Service objectives

Each of the five Networks will contribute to assisting pharmacotherapy providers implement a more integrated and cohesive service that will be focused on improving client outcomes.

The Networks will:

- develop a strategic approach to addressing need in the Area
- identify and analyse gaps in service provision in their Area and provide local solutions
- work with other services in the Area (such as hospitals, health services, Specialist Pharmacotherapy Services, general practitioners, pharmacists, other AOD services) to form partnerships to facilitate integrated assessment and treatment referral pathways
- provide and distribute advice regarding best-practice and emerging issues relating to pharmacotherapy
- attract and retain pharmacotherapy providers to the Area to relieve pressure to existing services
- provide ongoing support and wrap around support and mentoring to providers
- facilitate access to ongoing training for pharmacotherapy providers and
- provide access for complex clients to Addiction Medicine Specialists.

## Contacts

For further information please contact your local Pharmacotherapy Network.

Pharmacotherapy Network	Contact details
Area 1- Barwon South West Pharmacotherapy Network	<b>Name:</b> Aneill Kamath <b>Phone:</b> (03) 5564 5888 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:Aneill.Kamath@westvicphn.com.au">Aneill.Kamath@westvicphn.com.au</a> <b>Fax:</b> (03) 5564 5800
ORTicare- Grampians and Loddon Mallee Pharmacotherapy Network	<b>Name:</b> Jacqueline Keevins <b>Phone:</b> (03) 5338 4500 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:orticare@bchc.org.au">orticare@bchc.org.au</a> <b>Fax:</b> (03) 5331 5470
Area 3- Gippsland and Hume Pharmacotherapy Network	<b>Name:</b> Elizabeth Plunkett (Gippsland) <b>Phone:</b> 1800 242 696 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:nrwnursing@lchs.com.au">nrwnursing@lchs.com.au</a> <b>Fax:</b> (03) 5136 5475 <b>Name:</b> Tim Griffiths (Hume) <b>Phone:</b> (03) 5823 3219 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:TGriffiths@primarycareconnect.com.au">TGriffiths@primarycareconnect.com.au</a> <b>Fax:</b> (03) 5823 3299
Area 4- South and Eastern Metropolitan Pharmacotherapy Network	<b>Name:</b> Bernadette Lane <b>Phone:</b> (03) 9525 7399 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:A4PN@semphn.org.au">A4PN@semphn.org.au</a> <b>Fax:</b> (03) 9525 7369
Area 5- North West Metropolitan Pharmacotherapy Network	<b>Name:</b> Andrea Calleja <b>Phone:</b> (03)9362 8100 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:pharmacotherapy@cohealth.org.au">pharmacotherapy@cohealth.org.au</a> <b>Fax:</b> (03) 9362 8180