

## Media Release

### **Improved Collaboration for Better Primary Health Care Across Eastern Melbourne**

Collaboration is the key to delivering improved health outcomes, according to a region wide platform of service providers and organisations across Melbourne's east.

The Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Care Collaborative (EMPHCC) is aimed at enhancing primary health care services in community based settings. Its goal is to support the management of chronic disease and complex conditions for people at risk of poor health outcomes across the region and reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

In order to achieve this, members of the EMPHCC have committed to working collaboratively to achieve such a result. Members include community health services, the Department of Health and Human Services, Eastern Health, Eastern Melbourne PHN and Primary Care Partnership staff.

Eastern Health Executive Director Continuing Care, Ambulatory, Mental Health & Statewide Services and Chair of the EMPHCC Matt Sharp strongly supports the initiative.

"By working together using evidenced based strategies, we can deliver measurable improved health outcomes for our community."

"A stronger relationship between our organisations will mean better coordination of patient care, more efficient use of resources, reduced duplication and innovative approaches to affect system wide change," Mr Sharp said.

The EMPHCC was officially launched on Friday 17 June and included an inaugural planning workshop attended by 70 participants from local service providers and consumers.

Eastern Melbourne PHN Chief Executive Robin Whyte said the EMPHCC has already made significant progress in identifying primary health needs and priorities across eastern Melbourne.

"At this stage the emerging priorities are across key areas of such as heart failure, diabetes and mental health. We will also be focusing on increasing equity of access to services and place or location based approaches. This work will be enabled by increased information sharing and technology platforms to ensure they are effective."

Further information about the EMPHCC can be found at <http://www.emphn.org.au>.

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Members of the EMPHCC Governance Group at the EMPHCC Launch and Planning Workshop left to right: Matt Sharp Executive Director Continuing Care, Ambulatory, Mental Health & Statewide Services Eastern Health, Robin Whyte, Chief Executive Officer Eastern Melbourne PHN, Sandy Austin Director Health, East Division Department of Health & Human Services, Ronda Jacobs Chief Executive Officer and Peter Ruzyla Chief Executive Officer EACH.