

The mental health landscape: an update

Psychosocial Support Services

This communication is being provided to you as a helpful summary of current changes within the 'mental health landscape' in our Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network (EMPHN) catchment.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

As the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) rolls out, many people with psychosocial disability in our region are now becoming NDIS participants.

Psychosocial disability is the term used to describe a disability arising from a mental health condition. For an NDIS participant with psychosocial disability, their mental health condition is likely to remain across their lifetime. They would then be eligible for an NDIS support package.

Psychosocial supports

Not all people with psychosocial disability or severe mental illness will be eligible for NDIS support, but they will still need psychosocial support to live well in the community.

Psychosocial supports can include finding a home or work, looking after physical and mental health, connecting to the community, and developing social skills and friendships.

The Commonwealth and State governments have committed significant funding for new psychosocial support services to assist individuals who are not (or will not become) NDIS participants. **These services are commencing now.**

They include:

- Psychosocial Support Service (Commonwealth – PHN funded)
- Early Intervention Psychosocial Support Response - 'EIPSR' (Victorian Department of Health & Human Services funded)

What the new psychosocial support services have in common is ensuring that gaps in services are addressed, and that people with severe mental illness who are not eligible for the NDIS receive the support they need. The nature and duration of the psychosocial supports will vary between the Commonwealth and State funded services.

EMPHN funded Psychosocial Support Service

EMPHN has commissioned Neami National to provide the Psychosocial Support Service in our region. The service is for people experiencing severe mental health issues who will not be supported by the NDIS. **The service is available now.**

For information contact:

Neami National

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EMPHN Referral and Access Team

(03) 9800 1071

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Conclusion of Commonwealth mental health programs: Partners in Recovery (PIR), Personal Helpers & Mentors (PHaMs), and Day to Day Living (D2DL)

As a reminder, PIR, PHaMs and D2DL programs concluded on 30 June 2019. Participants of those programs, who are not eligible for the NDIS, will continue to be supported by their existing PIR, PHaMs and D2DL providers from 1 July 2019 until they transition to the new Psychosocial Support Service delivered by Neami National.

The transition period extends to November 2019, but transition for many consumers will take place earlier.

PIR, PHaMs and D2DL participants who have not yet tested their NDIS eligibility will be assisted by their current service provider to apply for the NDIS. If then found ineligible, these consumers have the opportunity to transition to the Psychosocial Support Service delivered by Neami National.

Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) funded psychosocial supports

DHHS has funded the Local Hospital Networks (LHNs) of Eastern Health, Melbourne Health, St Vincent's Hospital, Monash Health, and Austin Health to commission organisations in their catchments to deliver the Early Intervention Psychosocial Support Response (EIPSR).

Psychosocial supports delivered under this initiative are for clients of the public clinical mental health service (Area Mental Health Service - AMHS) who have a severe mental illness and are not supported by the NDIS or the EMPHN funded Psychosocial Support Service.

Currently, the following organisations will deliver the EIPSR psychosocial support services in the nominated LHNs/Area Mental Health Services (AMHS) that are situated in the EMPHN catchment:

	EIPSR service provider	AMHS
Eastern Health	EACH	Outer East AMHS, Central East AMHS
Melbourne Health	Mind	Northern AMHS
St Vincent's Hospital	Mind	Hawthorn CMHS
Monash Hospital	Not announced	Middle South AMHS
Austin Health	Not announced	North East AMHS

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HealthPathways Melbourne

[HealthPathways Melbourne](#) have developed clinical pathways to support general practice to navigate the complex mental health landscape. These pathways provide guidance on best practice assessment, management and referral on a range of [conditions](#).