Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership
Orientation Package for Member Agency Staff

This Orientation Package, as well as the Orientation Package for New and Potential Board Members, is available on the SMPCP website – www.smcp.com.au. The information on the website will be the most update of the Orientation Packages and can be distributed to agencies and staff members.

About the Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership
The Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership (SMPCP) is a partnership of organisations (health, welfare, disability, local government, community based), across the areas of Buloke, Gannawarra & Swan Hill, who are working together to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities. As a partnership, SMPCP works in the areas of health promotion, service coordination, chronic disease management, capacity building and partnership development. The SMPCP is committed to working collaboratively across the southern mallee catchment and within each local government area (LGA).

Benefits of your agency’s involvement in the SMPCP;
• Opportunity to work with other local (including regional providers) agencies on identified community wellbeing priorities
• Opportunity to better coordinate services locally for the benefit of the community
• Collectively plan together
• Work with local agencies and increase understanding of what other agencies undertake locally
• Work together on agreed practice and processes
• Shared capacity building training
• Advocating as a collective on local issues
• Collectively address local community wellbeing issues by bringing agencies together
• Access to local information on training, upcoming projects or opportunities to be involved in the planning of projects

Agency benefits highlighted by Bruce Myers, Director of Community & Cultural Services at Swan Hill Rural City Council:
“Access to plenty of local information, become part of a partnership which can lead to joint projects, and create effective relationships with other agencies in the region, in addition to cross-referencing information from the government departments that we all deal with.”

Local examples include;
• The development of the SMPCP Mental Health & Related Services (Eligibility & Entry Criteria) for Buloke Shire, Gannawarra Shire and Swan Hill Rural City
• Integrated Chronic Disease Management training – Flinders Model of Care, Health Coaching, Better Health Self Management and Motivational Interviewing
• Facilitation of the Health, Aged & Disability Networks for Buloke, Gannawarra and Swan Hill, which a range of services are involved in and attend
• Facilitation of 4 catchment wide committees attended by a range of different service providers: the Integrated Partnerships Committee, the Promoting Healthy Lifestyles Committee, the Chronic Disease Management Committee and the Mental Health & Wellbeing Committee
• Cooking Up a Storm Community Kitchen project – 1 community kitchen chosen per LGA
• Led the organisation of, in partnership with Campaspe PCP and Northern Mallee PCP, the Connecting Communities: Mallee & Campaspe Social Inclusion Conference attended by participants across the Loddon Mallee Region, held in Kerang.

Swan Hill Rural City Council’s involvement in the SMPCP, described by Bruce Myers:
“[SHRCC] have been involved with SMPCP since its inception, and has benefited from the e-referral and integrated service delivery work. Over the years has also worked with the PCP on drought and wellbeing planning, and is part of the Health, Aged and Disability Services Network”.

The Community Health & Wellbeing Profile
The Community Health & Wellbeing Profile is a document which is very useful for obtaining local data. The Profile presents a broad range of data that illustrates the social and health status of the SMPCP population. The SMPCP 2009 Community Health and Wellbeing Profile will be reviewed in 2011.
You can obtain a copy of the Profile by contacting SMPCP staff, alternatively it can be downloaded from the SMPCP Website www.smcp.com.au.

SMPCP Committee and Network Structure
The below diagram of the SMPCP structure outlines how the Board, Committees and Networks operate in conjunction with each other.

Service Coordination
SMPCP aim to improve service coordination practice across the southern mallee focusing on:
- Mental health and wellbeing providers and consumers
- Integrated chronic disease management providers for clients with diabetes and cardiovascular diseases i.e.
  - agency communication practice
  - increase common tool uptake
  - implementation of good practice pathways
  - reducing duplication of consumer information collection
  - E-communication
  - GP involvement and engagement.
SMPCP promote the use of Connectingcare – www.connectingcare.com. Connectingcare is an online regional service directory with electronic referral and messaging capacity to over one hundred health care agencies across Victoria which enables information containing client details to be sent securely. The website is a portal for local health and community service information.

Your agency can receive training from SMPCP in regards to the use of Connectingcare in sending secure e-communication, as well as setting up to receive e-communication.
SMPCP Member and Associate Member Agencies

The SMPCP is made up of 15 Member Agencies (see below) from across the catchment; all 15 agencies are signatories to the SMPCP Partnering Agreement. These agencies are committed to working collaboratively together for the benefit of the southern mallee community and actively contribute to activities relating to service coordination, IHP, ICDM and partnership development.

The SMPCP also consists of 15 Associate Member Agencies (see below). These agencies are committed to one (or more) strategic priorities and directions of the partnership, but may not contribute or fully participate in all areas of the SMPCP.

SMPCP Member Agencies

- Bendigo Health
- Buloke Shire Council
- Cohuna District Hospital
- East Wimmera Health Service
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Kerang District Health
- Mallee Health Care Network
- Mallee Family Care
- Murray Plains Division of General Practice
- Northern District Community Health Service
- Robinvale District Health Service (Manangatang)
- Mallee Track Health & Community Service (Sea Lake Campus)
- Swan Hill District Health
- Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Women’s Health Loddon Mallee

SMPCP Associate Members

- Annecto
- Centacare
- Centrelink
- Employment Works
- Interchange Loddon Mallee
- Mallee Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit
- Mallee Sports Assembly
- Murray Human Services
- Murdoch Community Services
- Murray Mallee Rural Finance
- Regional Information & Advocacy Council
- Rumbalara
- St Luke’s Anglicare
- Wimmera Uniting Care
- Wycheproof Resource Centre

SMPCP Website – www.smpcp.com.au

You can access further information about SMPCP activities on our website. You can find further information about: SMPCP Committees and Networks, SMPCP Priority Areas, Newsletters & E-Bulletins, Employment Opportunities and Upcoming Events.

On the website you can also access copies of SMPCP documents and resources; including:

- SMPCP 2009-2012 Strategic & Operational Plan
- SMPCP 2009 Community Health & Wellbeing Profile
- SMPCP Mental Health & Related Services (Eligibility & Entry Criteria) resources for: Buloke, Gannawarra and Swan Hill.

SMPCP Contact Details

Feel free to contact any of the SMPCP staff to find out more about becoming involved in PCP activities, or to discuss any areas of work you would like to know more about, or to obtain copies of the SMPCP 2009 – 2012 Strategic and Operational Plan or the SMPCP 2009 Community Health and Wellbeing Profile.

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