

## WESTERN SYDNEY MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

23 April 2019 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Parramatta Mission and Flourish Australia commissioned to provide headspace mental health services across Western Sydney*

The Federal Government's recently announced extension to youth mental health funding could not have come at a better time. Young people are seeking help at an unprecedented rate, while clinicians have also observed rising levels of complexity and acuity. In western Sydney it is estimated that approximately 80,000 young adults (12 to 25 years) have accessed some form of mental health service in the past 12 months.

Recently, the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WentWest), aiming to strengthen mental health services and build capability and capacity in the western Sydney region, undertook a comprehensive commissioning process for headspace services. WentWest is pleased to announce the following two providers have been successful:

- **Flourish Australia** Services (RichmondPRA Limited) will deliver headspace services in Parramatta and Castle Hill.
- UCA - **Parramatta Mission** (The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust) will deliver headspace services in Mount Druitt.

**headspace** began in 2006 to address the critical gap, by providing tailored and holistic mental health support to 12-25-year-olds. With a focus on early intervention, they work with young people to provide support to get them back on track and strengthen their ability to manage their mental health in the future.

*"WentWest as the region's PHN is committed to ensuring the best possible on the ground mental health services for every young person who needs support. The Government's funding announcement has ensured these services can continue to grow to meet demand," says WentWest's Acting CEO, Brendan Peek.*

*"Investing in early intervention is vital for 12-25-year-old's, and headspace is now one of Australia's most iconic mental health support organisations. We are very pleased to announce Parramatta Mission and Flourish Australia as headspace providers and look forward to working with them to deliver the best possible services we can for the young people of western Sydney."*

These new headspace service arrangements will take effect from **1 July 2019**.

If you have any queries, or for more information please contact the WentWest headspace Program Manager – Nita Chhabhadia on 02 8811 7142.



WentWest would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We value their culture, identity, and continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community. We would like to acknowledge and give our respect to Elders past, present and future. We are committed to making a valued contribution to the wellbeing of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Progressing Health Now. Western Sydney Primary Health Network is operated by WentWest.

# MEDIA RELEASE

## About the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WentWest Ltd)

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are a federal government health initiative, established with the key objectives of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place, at the right time.

In its role as the Western Sydney Primary Health Network, WentWest focuses on addressing national and regional health priorities in consultation and partnership with local GPs, Allied Health Professionals, consumers and community bodies and the broader health sector.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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