

“The RFDS Victoria Board wishes to thank the many clinicians and other stakeholders who participated in the provider and community consultations in September. Your input has strengthened our resolve to partner with local healthcare services in the interest of all those living in our most underserved rural communities.”

Denis Henry, Chair RFDS Victoria

Rural North West Victoria Network Partnership Project – December 2018 Stakeholder Update >

About the project

Responding to concerns over the sustainability of primary health services in rural Victoria, RFDS Victoria commissioned a feasibility study to assess ways in which it could further support local healthcare provision in the North West of Victoria.

After an exhaustive consultation process RFDS Victoria has resolved to establish an innovative service network partnership designed to improve local access to primary health services including GPs.

The priority focus for the network will be those with complex care needs residing in the smaller outlying communities that are currently most at-risk due to workforce shortages. The network is to be established in early 2019 with the intention of progressively increasing services over the balance of the year, including expansion of existing RFDS Victoria services such as specialist telehealth and community transport.

Why is RFDS Victoria setting up this network?

We have listened to the concerns of rural Victorians about the loss of their local highly valued healthcare providers. These concerns are heightened in the face of increasing numbers of rural people living under the burden of complex chronic illness.

The communities involved

The communities that will be served by the new network are those experiencing high levels of GP, nursing and other health workforce shortages. This includes Robinvale, Ouyen, Manangatang, Sea Lake and their surrounding districts. Consideration is being given to expanding network coverage in the future.

RFDS Victoria acknowledges that there are many other regions in rural Victoria in need of similar support and we hope that our learnings in North West Victoria will help us work out how we can partner with Governments and healthcare providers to address their needs as well.

The founding network partners

RFDS Victoria is delighted to be working with a range of prospective partners including Multi-Purpose Services, District Hospitals, Community Health Services and Murray Primary Health Network (PHN). We are also continuing to engage closely with GPs and other private health care professionals supporting these districts so that we can build on local strengths.

Prospective partners are meeting in December and January to decide the form of the network partnership and agree establishment timelines for 2019.



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Ways that you can contribute >

- Register for email updates by sending your name and contact email address to **healthnetwork@rfdsvic.com.au**
- Consider how your organisation might contribute to the success of the network:
 - Volunteer support
 - In-kind resources
 - RFDS Victoria fundraising
 - Welcoming new GPs to the community



RFDS Rural Women's GP Doctor Anita Moss.

More information

Email: margaret.kuhne@rfdsvic.com.au

View the RFDS Victoria Network presentation on our website at www.flyingdoctorhealthnetwork.org.au

Existing RFDS Victoria services in North West Victoria

- Rural Women's GP Service
- Mobile Eye Care
- Flying Doctor Telehealth
- Mobile Patient Care
- Flying Doctor Dental Clinic

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