

## New funding for Wimmera Grampians to deliver better care for those with movement disorders

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Western Victoria PHN (WVPHN) and Parkinson's Victoria have received federal government funding of \$1.69 million for a pilot project that aims to give specialised care for people living with movement disorders in the Wimmera Grampians region and greater western Victoria.

WVPHN and Parkinson's Victoria applied for the funding for the project to deliver better health outcomes for the community in partnership with Wimmera Health Care Group, Rural Northwest Health and Grampians Community Health.

WVPHN Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rowena Clift said: "To receive this project funding is a huge step forward for the health of the community in Horsham and surrounds. Every one of our communities across western Victoria has different needs, so delivering localised primary health care that addresses these varying requirements is the best way forward in ensuring that the Wimmera Grampians community receives the equitable care it requires most."

The 'Western Region Movement Disorder Better Care' pilot (\$1.69 million over four years across western Victoria) will aim to deliver accessible specialised care for people living with movement disorders including Parkinson's disease in rural and remote western Victoria where a prevalence cluster has been identified.

Parkinson's Victoria CEO Emma Colin said: "Parkinson's Victoria welcomes the Department of Health funding. We see enormous need to build the clinical capacity and specialist knowledge of movement disorders in rural and remote areas of western Victoria. Parkinson's is a highly complex condition and access to specialist local advice will help people to better manage their condition and live well."

The pilot will support three movement disorder nurses in Horsham, Warracknabeal and Stawell and will build local specialist knowledge in clinical support and provide care coordination to build the capability of people living with complex movement disorders to better manage their condition, increase their access to referral pathways, treatments and therapies in order to deliver better health outcomes in the region.

Wimmera Health Care Group CEO Catherine Morley said: "We've been working with a number of community members over the last two years to try and improve the services available to those who living with movement disorders and this is a great outcome. We will continue to work with our communities to make sure we deliver the services that meet their needs."

John McRoberts, Secretary of the Wimmera Parkinson's Peer Support Group said: "I have been

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Supporting general practice, commissioning health  
services into gaps and driving service integration.

advocating for several years to gain local support. Easy access to a Movement Disorder Nurse will address the issue of mobility and cost, which can be difficult - even prohibitive - for some who need clinical support beyond a neurologist.”

“To have a local trusted specialist will build continual care and provide confidence that you are getting the best care possible and that relieves a lot of stress. We look forward to welcoming the appointee to some of our regular meetings”

WVPHN and Parkinson’s Victoria will now embark on the process of delivering the pilot project to the community in the coming months.

**Quotes attributable to partner organisations:**

**Kevin Mills, CEO of Rural Northwest Health** said: “I am very excited for our communities to gain access to specialised skilled services for Movement Disorders. The very nature of these disorders further inhibits their capacity to travel to access services, having local access will dramatically improve the ability for our community to live their best life possible.”

**Bev Boag, recently retired Peer Support Group Leader of Grampians Parkinson’s Support Group** said: “People here really need one-on-one timely advice from an expert to make sure their health stays as good as it can. So many people will benefit from having better access to a movement disorder nurse. This funding will really boost the support here beyond the Parkinson’s Victoria Grampian’s Parkinson’s Support group”

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For more information, contact WVPHN Senior Manager Communications and PR Helen Kostiuk on 0413 754 606.