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Bringing Health Care to the Streets: New Street Outreach Service for the Great Southern

A new Street Outreach is set to launch in the Great Southern to support people experiencing homelessness, thanks to funding through the Australian Government's After Hours Primary Health Care – Homelessness Access Program (AHPHC-HAP).

Albany Community Bank has generously donated $50,000 to Palmerston to purchase a vehicle for the program.

Delivered in partnership by Palmerston and Pioneer Health, the Street Outreach Project will provide critical health care and harm reduction services directly to individuals in the community who face significant barriers to accessing primary care.

The outreach team will deliver on-the-ground clinical care and harm reduction services, focusing on building trust and providing consistent, compassionate support. By working alongside individuals in the community, the project seeks to bridge the gap between vulnerable people and essential healthcare. The service will also include harm reduction education, needle exchange, psychosocial support, and basic food provision — meeting people where they are and building the trust needed to engage them in longer-term care.

A stakeholder working group made up of local health, community, and housing providers will guide the project, ensuring the service evolves to meet community needs and maximises its impact.

This initiative aligns with national objectives to improve the effectiveness of primary health care services and better coordinate care for vulnerable populations. By addressing service gaps and removing physical, geographic, and systemic barriers, the Street Outreach Project will play a vital role in improving health outcomes for some of the Great Southern's most at-risk community members.

Comments attributed to Tina Edward-Pope, General Manager Regions:
"People experiencing homelessness often struggle to access even the most basic health services. This outreach program is about taking care to the streets and connecting individuals with the broader support systems that can help them live healthier lives.

We have seen an increase in collaboration between key agencies in the Great Southern in support of the homeless community, and Palmerston is looking forward to building on this momentum to provide much-needed care."

A very special thank you to Albany Community Bank for funding the purchase of a vehicle to support the program, a vital contribution to making this service a reality.

ENDS

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