

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 21 April 2017

NDIS boost for Ovens Murray

Ovens Murray is set to benefit from a \$2.8 million investment, with Merri Health to deliver early childhood early intervention (ECEI) services to support the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Merri Health will commence work in the Ovens Murray region from July, supporting families with children aged 0 – 6 with a developmental delay or disability, in the lead up to the transition to the NDIS in October.

As the local ECEI partner, Merri Health will coordinate ECEI services for the region, furthering extending its support to north eastern Victoria. It will support children and their family or carer, linking them with flexible and responsive services in the area.

Family and community support services general manager Tassia Michaleas said the team will be working closely with local providers to find families the right supports.

“We’ve been providing early childhood intervention services for more than 10 years and will use our expertise and understanding to support families. We’re familiar with the differing needs of north eastern Victoria and will be linking families with local service providers for individualised support,” Ms Michaleas said.

The ECEI team will be based at Merri Health’s Ovens Street, Wangaratta site. Further outreach locations across seven local government areas will follow, to extend accessibility and reach to the community.

Merri Health will commence recruiting soon, seeking local staff to deliver coordination support to families.

Support is in partnership with National Disability Insurance Agency.

– Ends –

Quick facts

- Merri Health is a non-for-profit community health provider, supporting people at every age and stage of life. It provides local health services in metropolitan and regional Victoria.
- The NDIS provides greater choice and control for people with disability. As an ECEI partner, Merri Health will work with families to determine the best supports for the child and family.
- Ovens Murray covers the areas of Alpine Shire Council, Rural City of Benalla, Rural City of Wangaratta, Shire of Indigo, Shire of Tawong, City of Wodonga and Shire of Mansfield.

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