

# Key Messages – PHLs GP Advisory Group

## Initial Assessment and Referral Project

<b>Key Messages</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Commonwealth Government has released a National Guidance document for all Primary Health Networks - Initial Assessment and Referral for Mental healthcare.</li><li>2. This document sets out the requirements that PHNs are expected to follow to support standardised and evidence-informed Initial Assessment and Referral processes for people who are experiencing, or who are at risk of, mild to moderate mental illness such as anxiety and/or depression.</li><li>3. As per the Guidance, WA Primary Health Alliance is embarking on the development and testing of an initial assessment and referral service.</li><li>4. This will aim to improve the consistency and quality of an initial mental health assessment and referral leading to better treatment outcomes for people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, mental health issues.</li><li>5. In order to develop such a service, WA Primary Health Alliance is undertaking an Initial Assessment and Referral project which is anticipated to run until the mid-2022.</li><li>6. This project will involve a collaboration with GPs, consumers, commissioned providers and other parties involved in the Initial mental health assessment and referral process, to co-design and pilot a viable service model and plan for its widescale implementation.</li><li>7. WA Primary Health Alliance is seeking interested GPs to join a GP Advisory Group that will contribute to a co-design process to develop and pilot a new service for people with or at risk of mental illness, who can be appropriately managed in primary care.</li><li>8. To be considered, GPs should meet one of the following criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ have expertise and/or experience in primary mental health care</li><li>➤ work with people experiencing significant disadvantage and barriers to accessing appropriate mental health care</li></ul></li></ol>
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	<p>➤ be committed to improving these services irrespective of expertise and/or experience.</p> <p>9. The overall aim is to improve the consistency and quality of patient intake, assessment and referral leading to better treatment outcomes for patients.</p> <p>10. The service will simplify GPs' navigation of the complex mental health system, ensuring the appropriate treatment response is provided to their patients</p> <p>11. The GP Advisory Group will run from July 2020 and interested GPs will be expected to be involved for 12 months in the first instance.</p> <p>12. It is anticipated that meetings will run for about 2 hours and be held bi-monthly.</p> <p>13. Members will receive a participation payment for their time on the Advisory Group, as per WA Primary Health Alliance's Paid Participation Policy.</p> <p>14. An Expression of Interest for the GP Advisory Group will be included in the most recent edition of GP Connect that was sent out on 11 June 2020.</p> <p>15. A nomination form can be found on Primary Health Exchange for GPs who are interested to join:  <a href="https://phexchange.wapha.org.au/initial-assessment-referral-project">https://phexchange.wapha.org.au/initial-assessment-referral-project</a> </p>
<b>Questions</b>	<p>Any queries to be directed to Dr Daniel Rock –  <a href="mailto:daniel.rock@wapha.org.au">daniel.rock@wapha.org.au</a> </p>

