

**For immediate release**

# Mental health support for Chinchilla and Tara communities

Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN joins Queensland in response to the tragic loss of two police officers and one community member in Wieambilla, Western Downs.

This incident has had an immediate impact on the region, particularly the local towns of Chinchilla and Tara. Many residents will be deeply affected and may have personal connections to the lives lost.

In response to this situation, the PHN is coordinating with local service providers to provide urgent mental health support for Chinchilla and Tara.

Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN CEO, Lucille Chalmers, said the availability of mental health services will be critical to supporting the local community.

"We are shocked and saddened by this tragic event. The addition of these mental health service providers will ensure locals have a place to turn for support during this time," said Ms Chalmers.

These services are available from today, Wednesday, 14 December, and will be provided free of charge.

"These services are provided by qualified mental health professionals, and will be available across the next week, with some possibilities of extension where required and possible," said Ms Chalmers.

The available services are:

- **Momentum Mental Health**  
Onsite at Chinchilla Community Centre from 8am today, Wednesday, 14 December until Sunday, 18 December 2022, with possibility of extension.
- **Lumsden Psychology**  
Onsite at Chinchilla Community Centre from the afternoon of Saturday, 17 December through to Tuesday, 20 December 2022.
- **Lifeline**  
Have been deployed by the District Disaster Management Group and currently have two staff available in Tara.

The PHN is in ongoing contact with Queensland Police Service and local health providers to ensure services are meeting local needs. The PHN is also in contact with local Aboriginal Medical Services to discuss availability of culturally safe mental health services.

Local healthcare workers who may be impacted can find support through the PHN's EAP service. Find out more at [www.ddwmpnh.com.au/eap](http://www.ddwmpnh.com.au/eap).

Any person seeking support to process this incident can access support by calling Head to Health on 1800 595 212 from Monday to Friday 8:30-5:00pm to talk to a mental health professional and be connected with the supports to meet their needs.

## About the Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN

We are a not-for-profit organisation who partners with community organisations, health care providers, hospital and health services, and state and federal governments to improve primary health care services in our communities.

We work within the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to better understand, support and improve the health of people living in our region.

We bring together GPs, general practice staff, allied health professionals, hospital and health services, Aboriginal Medical Services, community service providers, Elders and community members to identify the services that are needed the most, and then we fund programs and services based on these needs.

We also support primary health care providers, like GPs, practice managers, practice nurses and allied health professionals, to improve the care they provide to their patients.

## For media enquiries, please contact:

### Louise Litchfield

Lead - Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

**M** 0400 900 604

**E** [louise.litchfield@ddwmpnh.com.au](mailto:louise.litchfield@ddwmpnh.com.au)