



COMMUNITY HEALTH FIRST ROUNDTABLE BRINGS TOGETHER GOVERNMENT AND SECTOR LEADERS TO LAUNCH POSITION PAPER

12 July 2023

IPC Health joined all 24 registered community health services and government and sector leaders, including The Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Minister of Health and Prof. Euan Wallace, Secretary of the Department of Health, on 11 July to officially launch the Community Health First position paper, *Strengthening Victoria's Health System through Community Health*.

The paper, developed collaboratively by all registered community health services, was launched with a powerful central message focused on the need to reimagine our health system to deliver better outcomes for all Victorians regardless of their bank balance or postcode.

Anna Robinson, Chair of the Community Health First Steering Committee, said that the recommendations put forward by the paper should be drawn on by all levels of government to support work to rebuild and reimagine provision of healthcare and deliver cost-effective solutions that focus on improving outcomes.

“We know that our registered community health services hold the solutions to many of the problems facing our health and social care systems and are central in reimagining a system that delivers better, more ambitious outcomes not only in Victoria but across Australia.”

“Through investing in community health services governments can tackle issues surrounding access to care and disparities in health outcomes through a cost-effective and locally responsive model of service delivery.”

Jayne Nelson, CEO of IPC Health, said that the paper showed the role community health services could play in directly addressing and reducing demand on Victoria's overcrowded emergency departments and ambulance services.

“Victoria's registered community health services play a vital role in keeping our state healthy and supported, helping communities thrive and keeping Victorians out of hospital, and we look forward to further conversations with government about our recommendations to build a stronger, more accessible health system.”

The position paper also highlights examples of the work of community health services across the state to provide critical services and support that are responsive to the needs of communities and address the social determinants of health.

The Community Health First position paper, *Strengthening Victoria's Health System through Community Health*, can be accessed at communityhealthfirst.org.au.

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES OR INTERVIEWS, CONTACT ANNA MINCHAM - 0407 206 965.