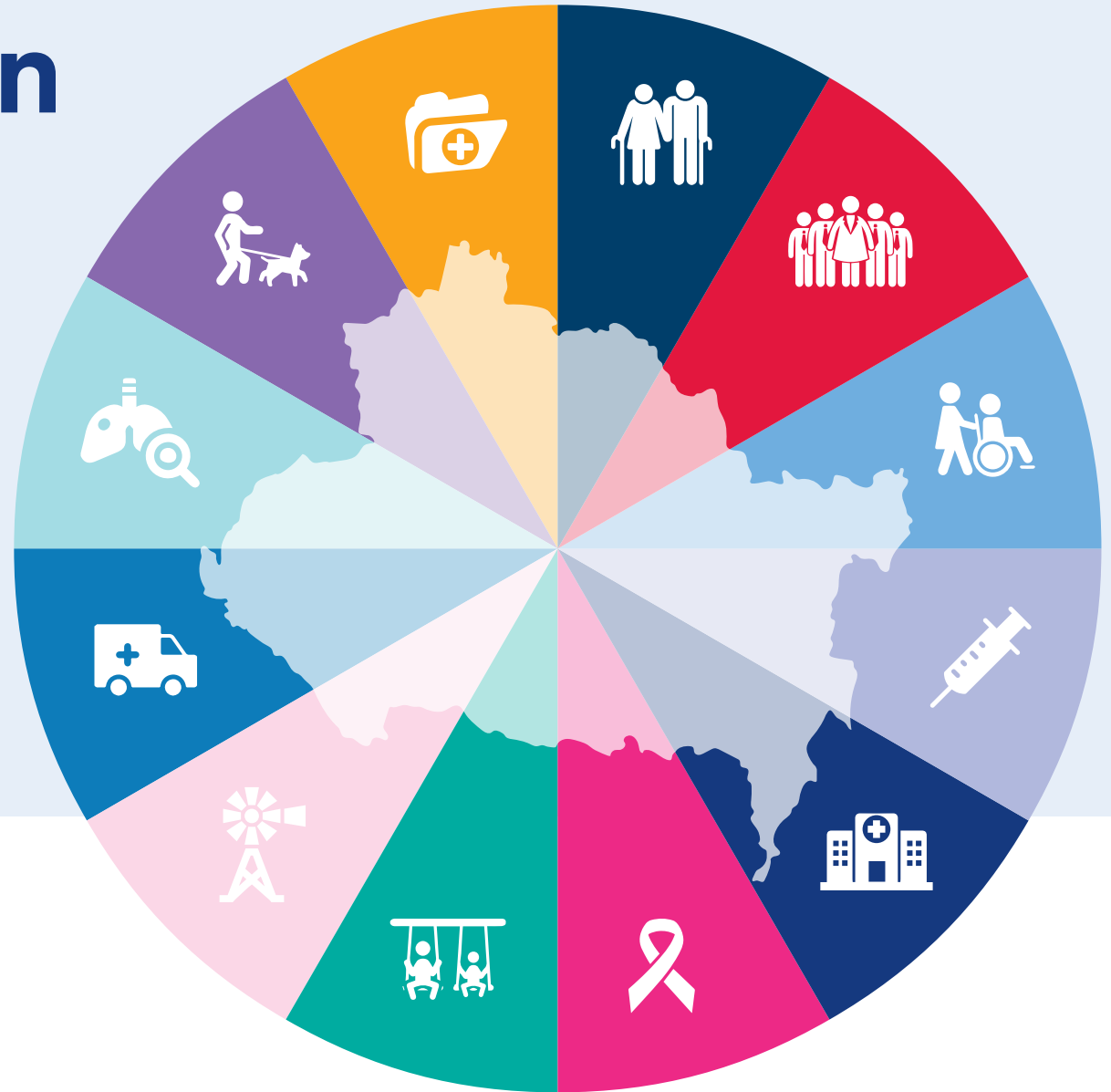


# Collaboration Agreement

2022 - 2025





## “Marrambidya” (Murrumbidgee river)

Commissioned Aboriginal Artwork by: Kheely Turner

Murrumbidgee Local Health District acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, community members and staff for their ongoing contribution to society and their commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We share and celebrate the rich history of the Aboriginal culture and recognise the diverse and proud Aboriginal nations across our District.

Traditional custodians of the land covered by the District are the Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta, Baraba Baraba, Wemba Wemba and Nari Nari.

## “Connected”

Commissioned Aboriginal Artwork by: Owen Lyons

MPHN acknowledges and pays respects to the traditional owners of the lands on which MPHN operates; the Wiradjuri, Nari Nari, Wemba Wemba, Perepa Perepa, Yorta Yorta, Ngunnawal, Ngarigo, Bangerang and Yitha Yitha Nations. We recognise our communities are made up of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples descended from additional mobs and clans who also call the Murrumbidgee region home.

We pay respect to elders past, present and future and recognise these lands have always been places of traditional healing and medicine, and this plays a role in shaping future health services.



# Our vision

A one health system approach for the Murrumbidgee



## Statement of commitment

We know that communities in our rural and regional areas experience poorer health outcomes and face many challenges when accessing healthcare. For many years, MLHD and MPH N have worked together at the highest of levels to ensure the people living in the Murrumbidgee have access to quality and coordinated healthcare regardless of where they live. The relationship has grown and cascaded down through both organisations into an advanced and mature model.

In late 2022, a joint Board meeting was held with the Boards governing the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) and Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN). During the meeting current challenges and future opportunities were discussed and agreement was reached between both organisations to establish a formal Collaborative Agreement (this document).

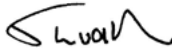
As MLHD and MPH N continue to collaborate, it is hoped the joint activities, initiatives, and projects we undertake will support a more sustainable health system, reduce fragmentation, and provide people with a more coordinated journey through the health system that meets their needs

Despite the challenges of regional and rural healthcare, MLHD and MPH N are committed to working together to implement various NSW and Federal government healthcare reforms and activities, and to advocate for local change when required.

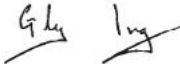
MLHD and MPH N have identified three key focus areas that will guide our collaboration activity:


- Enhance collaboration to optimise use of the health workforce and support wellbeing of providers.
- Identify, review, and develop models of care that enhance coordination, efficiency, and patient experience.
- Facilitate joint information, data sharing and planning to understand and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

This Collaborative Agreement formalises the existing partnership and strong commitment between both organisations to work towards a shared vision of *one health system for the Murrumbidgee*.

  
Jill Ludford,  
CE MLHD

  
Melissa Neal,  
CEO MPH N

  
Glynis Ingram,  
Board Chair MLHD

  
Dr Jodi Culbert,  
Board Chair MPH N

# Overview

The partners have made a commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities through enhancing our collaboration.

The partners acknowledge and commit to the principles and priorities of the NSW Joint statement between the NSW Primary Health Networks (PHNs), NSW Health and the Primary Care Division of the Australian Government Department of Health. The Joint Statement supports current NSW Health and PHN agreements, programs, projects and services at the regional and state level and facilitates how to work together on new initiatives.

This collaboration agreement sets out our local commitment to progressing state-wide and regional priorities.



# Guiding principles



## Shared Vision

We have a shared purpose to guide our work together



## Mutual trust, respect and commitment

We work together and allocate resources towards our shared vision



## Transparency and openness

We are open and honest in our dealings and work constructively to address issues



## We innovate

We are open to new ideas and look for opportunities to think outside the box



# Our region

# The partners

## Murrumbidgee Local Health District



Murrumbidgee Local Health District is the largest employer in the Murrumbidgee region, with over 5,000 healthcare staff working across 33 hospitals and 12 primary health care centres, we are supported by hundreds of volunteers who make an invaluable contribution to enriching the lives of people in our care.

The communities we support are diverse, with approximately 243,228 people in communities large and small across the region.

We strive to support people to live the healthiest lives possible and to provide services as close to home as possible.

Our aim is to provide excellence in all elements of health care and superior service to all of those we serve. We work to extend healthcare to people beyond the hospital setting, with new ways of delivering care to people, improving access and equity.

We use digital tools and new technologies to bring specialised care to our rural communities, supporting sustainable affordable services.

Our values of collaboration, openness and respect, empowers us to embrace cultural diversity and to treat all people with dignity and compassion.



**Murrumbidgee  
Local Health District**

# Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network



Firsthealth is a not-for profit organisation which has been supporting and delivering primary health programs for 30 years. Our purpose is to create connected, dynamic and equitable healthcare through empowered workforce and communities as we move towards our vision of well people, resilient communities.

Firsthealth is federally funded to deliver the Primary Health Network program across the Murrumbidgee region. Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN) is one of 31 local and independent PHNs established nationally to support the primary healthcare sector and improve health outcomes, particularly for people at risk of poorer health outcomes. We deliver the PHN program across approximately 126,000 square kilometres to more than 250,000 people living in our 508 communities.

With the person at the centre of care, we plan and deliver programs to ensure the needs of our individual local communities inform our approaches. We achieve this by working with our community and partners to:

- Coordinate local services and systems to improve coordination of care.
- Commission primary health services to meet population health needs with a focus on access and equity.
- Support capacity-building to ensure sustainable healthcare workforce through quality improvement, professional development and other innovative measures.

Our work and engagement with our communities and stakeholders is underpinned by our values of work together, be honest, value everyone, aim to inspire and learn from others.



# Governance structure

The partnership between our organisation has developed over many years, our joint governance model seeks to ensure adequate governance and joint accountability at all levels, strategic, operational and project. Terms of reference and other governance documents detail these arrangements.



# Roles and responsibilities

The partners acknowledge the importance of ensuring the clarity of the high level roles and responsibilities that exist at a governance level and between our organisations. The roles and responsibilities detailed in this section act a guide to the partners in relation to expectations.

## Joint Board Sub-Committee

The joint board sub-committee commit to:

- Provide governance and strategic oversight to the joint partnership
- Facilitate engagement between the boards of each organisation
- Identify and agree on joint focus areas
- Monitor and review progress towards the priorities of the agreement
- Actively monitor the health environment to identify new and emerging partnership opportunities

## MLHD and MPHN

MLHD and MPHN commit to:

- Understanding and prioritising activities aligned to population health needs
- Identifying new and emerging opportunities for collaboration aligned to the agreed focus areas
- Joint accountability for the implementation, monitoring and outcomes of activities
- Identify and establish mechanisms that facilitate engagement between the organisations

# Funding

The partners acknowledge that financial and resourcing arrangements for agreed activity will be negotiated and detailed for each activity. Financial arrangements will be determined prior to the commencement of activity with an agreed process for financial management of projects.

# Key focus areas

The joint focus areas have been identified and informed by our population health needs assessment and consultation with the joint boards, Chief Executive Officers and Executive team members. The focus areas build on our previous work and provide the opportunity to further develop activities that improve health outcomes for patients, improving alignment between our organisation and that optimise use of the health workforce.

Activity under the key focus areas will be determined, agreed and monitored through the joint activity schedule.



## Monitoring and evaluation

The agreement will be monitored by the partners through agreed reporting mechanisms to the joint board. The joint board will set the agreed KPIs aligned to the focus areas to monitor progress towards out shared commitment.



**Murrumbidgee  
Local Health District**

The logo for Murrumbidgee Local Health District consists of the words 'Murrumbidgee' and 'Local Health District' stacked vertically in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.