

Media release



Embargoed until 12 Midday on 14 April 2011

Photocall: Thursday April 14 at 2pm with OGNP Chair, Dr Alistair Vickery, and consortium members

headspace centre a step closer

Thousands of young people are a step closer to accessing **headspace** services in Perth, following the announcement of the planned centre's lead agency and consortium members.

Mark Butler MP, Federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, said "One in four young Australians aged 16-24 years (about 670,000 people) will experience mental health disorders - including substance use disorders - in any year. Yet, three-quarters of these people aren't receiving the professional help they need, partly because of a lack of access to youth-specific mental health services," Mr Butler said.

headspace Chief Executive, Chris Tanti, said the selection of Osborne GP Network Ltd (OGPN) followed a rigorous review process. "It's a significant milestone in the process to establish the new centre. We are really pleased to have them on board," Mr Tanti said.

"OGPN works together with GPs to provide quality health care to the community. They are committed to identifying and supporting the needs of youth with mental health and social challenges, which will be invaluable in delivering **headspace** services.

"Our 30 existing centres have made a very positive difference to the lives of more than 40,000 young people to date. The new centre will extend **headspace** services to support young people in Perth and the surrounding areas," Mr Tanti said.

headspace centres employ experienced health professionals that deliver youth friendly services including: mental health and counselling; general and sexual health; education and employment; and, alcohol and other drug services.

OGPN Chief Executive, Terina Grace, said the consortium members are excited about establishing the **headspace** centre.

"We know that 75 per cent of mental health issues emerge between the ages of 12 and 25 so it's critical that young people have access to youth friendly services tailored to their needs. **headspace** services will make a significant difference to the mental health and wellbeing of young people," Ms Grace said.

The consortium members are: ARAFMI Mental Health Carers and Friends Association WA Inc; City of Stirling; Fremantle GP Network; Youth Futures WA; South Metropolitan Youth Link Inc; St John of God Healthcare – Social Outreach and Advocacy; Child and Adolescent Health Service – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service; and, North Metropolitan Area Health Service – Mental Health.

The centre is funded as part of the \$78 million funding package for **headspace** announced in the May 2010 Federal Budget. The Perth centre will be in operation later this year.

For more information about **headspace** visit: www.headspace.org.au.

headspace media contact:

Dave Bell
Email: dbell@headspace.org.au
Mob: 0413 025 385

Osborne GP Network Ltd media contact:

Tara Trostl
Email tarat@ogpn.com.au
Phone: 08 9208 9505

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headspace

National Youth Mental Health Foundation

Street 47–51 Chetwynd Street North Melbourne

Mail PO Box 473 North Melbourne VIC 3051

Tel +61 3 9027 0100 Fax +61 3 9027 0199

headspace.org.au