

**Deakin University (Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences) and Department of Human Services (Eastern Metropolitan Region)**

***Why a Partnership?***

A formal partnership between both organisations has been established because of a strong belief that through working together we can better protect and enhance the health and social wellbeing of all people who live in the region, and especially vulnerable people.

The partnership draws on the knowledge, experience and resources of both organisations and extends to the agencies funded by Department of Human Services.

We believe the opportunities for collaboration are substantial and will continue to develop. The partnership has a range of benefits including:

- Improved collaborative processes;
- Enhanced access to best practice training opportunities for DHS and the funded sector workforce;
- Enhanced policy and program development, planning and service delivery;
- Increased sustainability of joint projects;
- Increased potential for joint funding applications;
- Enhanced capacity of the Department of Human Services to identify and respond to local health and wellbeing issues;
- Enhanced capacity of Deakin University to undertake research and education in the practical context of local issues;
- Provision of the infrastructure necessary to promote and support collaboration with other sectors;
- Advance the profile of Eastern Metropolitan Region and its funded agencies as an innovative and progressive region.

***About Deakin (Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences)***

Deakin University has gained international recognition for its research and teaching, particularly in the applied and professional disciplines.

The Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences consists of the following schools:

- Psychology
- Nursing
- Exercise and Nutrition Sciences
- Health and Social Development (Health Promotion, Health Sciences, Occupational Therapy, Disability Studies and Social Work)
- Medicine

Specific areas of research interest include:

- Health impact assessment
- Social inequality, diversity and health
- Disability studies
- Health Promotion
- Nature and Health
- Social Exclusion
- Chronic illness management
- Obesity
- Impact of physical exercise
- Risk behaviours and mental health
- Ageing and chronic illness

***About Department of Human Services (Eastern Metropolitan Region)***

Eastern Metropolitan Region covers an area of 2960 sq kms, with a population of just under 1 million people. It consists of the following Local Government areas (LGAs):

- Boroondara
- Monash
- Whitehorse
- Manningham
- Maroondah
- Knox
- Yarra Ranges

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Office employs around 2000 staff, most of whom provide services to clients in the areas of disability, child protection, housing, juvenile justice, specialist children's services and school nursing. In 2008-09, EMR has an output budget in excess of \$415 million and works in partnership with about 430 agencies that provide services in the region.

The regional office is responsible for planning, funding and delivering services within the following areas:

- **Housing and Homelessness** (Community Housing, Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, Housing Services)
- **Aged Care** (Home and Community Care, Palliative Care and Supported Residential Services)
- **Health** (Drugs and Alcohol Services, Psychiatric Disability and Rehabilitation Support Services, Community & Primary Health, Primary Care Partnerships, Financial Counselling, Telephone Counselling)
- **Public Health** (Regional Environmental Health, Health Promotion, School Focused Youth Services, Secondary School Nursing)

- **Child and Family Services** (Youth Support Program, Maternal & Child Health, Parenting, Early Intervention – Funded Sector, Specialist Children’s Services, Primary School Nursing, Children’s Services, Family Violence Prevention, Support Services, Family Support, Sexual Assault, Best Start)
- **Protection, Support and Juvenile Justice** (Child Protection, Juvenile Justice, Accommodation and Support, After Hours Services, Family Services)
- **Disability Services** (Disability Client Services, Community and Residential Services, Partnerships and Service Planning)
- **Kew Residential Services**
- **Neighbourhood Renewal**

***What are the Opportunities?***

The partnership offers opportunities for collaborative projects and programs between the main partners and the funded sector including:

- Joint Research and development
- Undergraduate and post-graduate teaching and learning placements
- Expert advice and consultation
- Advocacy and promotion of health and social wellbeing for vulnerable population groups

***How to access the Partnership***

If you have an idea, project or initiative that you think would benefit from the Partnership, you can contact:

- Manager, Public Health Development  
Eastern Metropolitan Region  
Telephone: 9843 6240
- Jan Moore  
School of Health and Social Development  
Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences  
Deakin University  
Telephone: 8244 3748