



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

8 October 2018

MORE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL POLICE AND HEALTH FRONTLINE WORKING WITH MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

Senior operational commanders and managers in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District, NSW Ambulance and NSW Police will attend a workshop in Wagga Wagga on 1 November to ensure best practice when managing people experiencing mental health problems.

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said the meeting is one of 16 collaborative workshops which support the implementation of the revised NSW Health – NSW Police Force Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

“Across the community, our frontline staff work together every day to achieve the best outcomes for vulnerable members of the community who come into contact with our services,” Mr Aplin said.

“By establishing this meeting the NSW Government is ensuring the changes match the particular challenges and needs of our community, which is why local staff will meet and discuss how the new MOU will work for them specifically.”

Minister for Mental Health Tanya Davies said the MOU sets out how health staff, police officers and paramedics work together when responding to and delivering care to people accessing these services.

“In NSW, our priority is making sure anyone who seeks our help receives timely and appropriate care, in an environment that’s safe for them and for our staff,” Mrs Davies said.

“This includes people living with mental illness, those in police custody brought to a health facility, and the management of public safety issues in health settings.”

Minister for Police Troy Grant said NSW Police officers frequently deal with people who have a mental illness and need access to health support, services and care.

“Police are commonly the first on the scene in a crisis situation and the NSW Government is ensuring our men and women on the frontline have the education and awareness required to deal with all kinds of emergencies,” Mr Grant said.

“These local meetings address the revisions and additions made to the MOU and will help staff get across the important changes.”

[The revised NSW Health – NSW Police Force Memorandum of Understanding 2018 can be found at \[www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth\]\(http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth\).](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth)

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