

28<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**RE: Psychological Therapy Services for under-serviced Groups (Strong Minds Western NSW)**

We are writing to inform you that Marathon Health has been appointed as the provider for the new Psychological Therapy Services for under-serviced Groups (Strong Minds Western NSW).

Marathon Health is committed to ensuring country Australians have access to the best healthcare. We have extensive experience in delivering mental health programs to regional and remote communities, especially as a current Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) and Mental Health Services to Rural and Remote Areas (MHSRRA) provider across the Central West.

Our staff and other health partner providers work hard to bridge the gaps in access to health services, and we are pleased to be able to offer the Strong Minds Western NSW service to people who are underserved through existing mental health programs due to isolation or rural workforce limitation. The use of telehealth technologies will play an increasing role in the delivery of these services to a geographically large region. (Please see the fact sheet attached)

GPs will be able to refer eligible clients to Strong Minds Western NSW through Marathon Health's Centralised Intake (Triage and Assessment) Service. To refer a client, a Mental Health Treatment Plan (MHTP) and a referral must be sent through to Centralised Intake (details below). In some circumstances if a patient can't see their GP in a timely manner to get a MHTP, a provisional referral can be made to enable the patient to commence treatment whilst waiting to see their GP.

A referral form will be available to download from our website from the 1<sup>st</sup> October. The referral form and the completed MHTP should be faxed or emailed to the **Marathon Health Centralised Intake Service:**

**Email:** mentalhealth@marathonhealth.com.au

**Secure Fax:** (02) 6882 7224

**Phone enquiries:** 1300 402 585

We are excited to work with you to ensure people living in Western NSW are able to access timely and appropriate mental health services. If you have any questions about Strong Minds Western NSW and how this program will operate in your region, please do not hesitate to contact the team on 1300 402 585 or visit our website: [www.marathonhealth.com.au](http://www.marathonhealth.com.au)

Marathon Health gratefully acknowledges the Western NSW Primary Health Network for the funding of this service.

Yours sincerely,



Bryan Hoolahan  
Executive Manager of Health Services  
Marathon Health



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