



**Mallee Track Health &
Community Service**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Local Mental Health Strategy takes shape.

By MTHCS Community and Social Support Manager Nadiene Lynch.

A local team to provide long-term mental health support for communities will be complete when Mallee Track Health and Community Service (MTHCS) recruits a Mental Health Clinician in the coming weeks.

The Mental Health Clinician will work across the MTHCS catchment and within the Ouyen, Murrayville and Manangatang P12 colleges. The position will be supported by Rural Outreach Workers at Ouyen and Sea Lake.

Part of the MTHCS Strategic Plan is to respond to community demand for increased mental health support, especially holistic services that support long-term wellbeing.

The need for this service was identified through an informal process where people have called us asking about mental health support, including crisis services and also support for long-term recovery. This has shown us there is an urgent need for a locally based service.

There are a wide range of crisis services that we can link people to, but our concern has been about how we support those people when they come home to our communities to make sure they have the services they need.

The development of this new mental health clinician role is a great example of the ways MTHCS can be innovative and responsive to our particular needs in rural communities.

We have developed partnerships with organisations and professionals in our area who understand that navigating mental health systems can be very complex and people need locally-based support if they are to achieve long-term recovery.

The health and wellbeing needs of our communities are always changing and MTHCS strives to make sure we are adaptive.

The Mental Health Clinician will be an employee of MTHCS, working within the Department of Education (DET) Mental Health Practitioners Initiative Guidelines. This position has been created through the partnership between DET and MTHCS where we are sharing the funding.

The successful applicant is required to have a tertiary qualification (accredited in mental health) in either Psychology, Social Work, Nursing or Occupational Therapy or relevant discipline.

Rural areas are appealing places to work and live. Our towns offer a wonderful lifestyle – friendly communities, open spaces, pink lakes, spectacular landscapes, markets, fishing, hiking and recreational lakes. Advances in IT have also provided unlimited education opportunities that are enhanced with La Trobe rural universities that cater for country towns.

For more information about this role or for a position description please refer to our website <https://www.mthcs.com.au/careers/current-vacancies>

[Alternatively please contact Nadiene Lynch](#), Community & Social Support Manager [on 5092 1111](tel:0350921111) or nlynch@mthcs.vic.gov.au

For interviews or further information contact MTHCS CEO Lois O'Callaghan (03) 5092 1111