

TROPHI Community Forum: Needs Summary

The overarching objective of TROPHI is to drive high quality implementation and translational research that provides practice-based evidence to improve primary health care and patient outcomes in the outer Eastern Melbourne region of Victoria. In particular, the Knox, Maroondah, and Yarra Ranges local government areas are the focus of TROPHI, each of which has both rural and metropolitan areas with their own regional needs and research priorities.

An important part of the TROPHI project is to understand the regional needs through review of reports and publications, and importantly by listening to our community and stakeholders. These needs are important to guide our TROPHI activity. The following provides a summary of regional needs discussed by attendees at the TROPHI Community Forum held 16th August 2023. Attendees included GP's, public health providers, practice managers, representatives from local councils and academic GP's.

Overall comments noted from the community forum discussion included:

- There is significant community loyalty – and hence a requirement for services to be delivered there in each region OR that satellite services be developed.
- The Yarra Valley has no residential aged care and deficiencies were identified in the delivery of aged care and amenities for elderly populations, e.g., lack of transport to physical services and no coverage for or understanding of how to access on-line services (particularly for the elderly population) continues to be a challenge in the rural regions.

The needs identified through the community forum are presented under themes in the following section:

Aligning practice models with need

- The needs of a diverse and vulnerable community.
- The potential benefits of team based primary care.
- The addition of other practitioners (in particular - nurse practitioners) to traditional models of primary care.
- Less emphasis on 'more training' for GPs and more on improving the system.
- Participants were interested in exploring models, such as salaried services, not exclusively reliant on fee-for-service for primary care.
- Specific tailoring of care targeted at women's health.
- There were needs in terms of gaining support from non-GP specialists for care delivery in primary care – supporting better relationships, communities of practice and support for better referrals.
- That TROPHI incorporates allied health practitioners, nurses and consumers.
- Looking for ways in which we can attract more GP registrars to training and working in the region.

The challenge of multi-morbidity

- That coordination of care, particularly between primary and secondary care so 'patient story' gets passed along / addressing test duplication.
- That there is integrated care for Dementia sufferers.
- The need for practical tools to address these challenges.
- The roles, responsibilities, and potential of other primary care disciplines.

Adolescent health

- That there is better access to Mental health services - particularly CALD – to develop appropriate tailoring of needs.

Wellbeing for health professionals

- More peer-to-peer support to minimise burnout.
- GP wellbeing – loneliness and lack of peer support in current model of fee for service / GP supervision.

Next Steps:

- We appreciate recipients review of the document and feedback on additional needs which are not yet covered, or clarification of needs already covered. We will use this feedback to refine our list of needs. The final list of community feedback on needs will be added to our existing needs analysis- and used to inform the priorities for TROPHI activity.
- We will send the link to the TROPHI website with notifications on application dates for the capacity building activities. The Mentoring program will be launched in September – providing experienced mentors for GP's, general practice staff and primary health workers.
- We will hold a Stakeholder forum in October/November 2023.

Thank you for your input.