

Innovative Models of Care (IMOC) Program – Our Community Our Children

Dame Patti Menzies Centre will deliver Our Community Our Children: supervised student-led paediatric allied health clinics in 6 trial sites including community education and early years education sessions.

Round 5: Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Our Community Our Children

Location: Victoria - Yea, Flowerdale, Kinglake, Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville (MM5).

Funding: \$1.4 million over 4 years from 2024

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The activity will trial a set of supervised student-led paediatric allied health clinics in 6 trial sites across Murrindindi Shire. The project will develop, with the local communities, an innovative co-designed model of community health service planning, education and delivery. The model will include community education and early years education sessions. It aims to meet the needs of young children in 6 small rural communities across Murrindindi Shire. The project will improve health outcomes for young children and support their preparedness for primary school and develop effective and connected service pathways.

The grant will support partnerships to improve health services and coordination with the students and will help build rural workforce capacity and capability. The model will include scheduling and coordinating student service-learning placements to support the student-led clinics in each community. Going Rural Health will support these activities through an active partnership. Supervision and mentoring of students will be done by qualified practitioners specific to their discipline. Supervised students will deliver critical services such as developing health screening and assessments, navigation support and referrals for children with additional needs and parent and educator education. The project is supported by considerable in-kind support for governance and clinic coordination and support. The use of online meeting platforms, where appropriate also reduces travel cost and supports participation across a large geographic area.

Committees will be representative of the local community and will undertake a rigorous co-design process to support strong engagement. The evaluation includes a strong action research component. The project will seek regular input from all key stakeholders promoting ongoing engagement and local ownership. The staged implementation approach spreads the workload to ensure maximum program resources are available. This will support co-design and implementation at new sites by reducing staffing costs and organising student teams around community needs.