

# Media Release

**Ingrid Stitt MP**  
Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Ageing  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Friday, 9 August 2024

## **ANOTHER MILESTONE MOMENT FOR REHAB CENTRE IN MILDURA**

The Allan Labor Government is another step closer to delivering a specialist adult drug and alcohol residential withdrawal and rehabilitation facility in Mildura – the first of its kind in the region.

Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt and Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas today announced the address of the \$36 million facility that will be managed by Sunraysia Community Health Services in a consortium partnership with Mildura Base Hospital, Odyssey House Victoria and Mallee District Aboriginal Services.

Set to be located at 13 Jenner Street in Merbein, community members living with alcohol and other drugs (AOD) addiction will be able to seek support and treatment in a welcoming and healing space.

The 30-bed facility will specialise in withdrawal and detox – providing around the clock care for up to 200 people every year who are experiencing withdrawal or require stabilisation, and need to continue their treatment.

The facility will include consulting, staff and support areas, several shared spaces including a kitchen, dining, lounge and activity areas, and an extensive outdoor deck and landscaped areas for outdoor program activities.

This investment means people seeking AOD treatment and support in Mildura and across the Mallee region, can get the help they need without needing to travel long distances or leave the support networks they rely on.

The project will be delivered by the Victorian Health Building Authority, with architectural firm Billard Leece Partnership appointed to lead the facility's design.

Since 2015, the Labor Government has more than doubled the number of residential rehabilitation beds across the state, with the majority of beds located in regional Victoria – including a \$52.1 million investment for AOD residential rehabilitation facilities in Corio, Traralgon and Wangaratta that are already providing care to regional Victorians.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt**

*"This new facility will mean locals across the Mallee region can embark on their journey towards recovery and wellbeing in a welcoming place that is close to their family and support networks."*

*"Alcohol and drug related harms have a devastating impact on local communities – this new facility in Mildura will create the opportunity for locals to stay connected to their community while they get the treatment, care and support they need."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes**

*"Addiction has a devastating impact on local communities – particularly in regional Victoria. This new facility in Mildura will create lasting change in people's lives and help them stay connected to their communities."*