

Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Premier



Friday, 30 August 2024

BACKING MORE REHABILITATION HEALTH SERVICES IN BENDIGO

The Allan Labor Government is making sure more people living in Bendigo and across the region can get the care they need close to home – with a new rehabilitation facility for people who are struggling with addiction and addiction, now open.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards today officially opened the Wyanimbik Wayawan Wellness Activity Centre in Bendigo – which will support locals as they overcome addiction.

The Labor Government invested \$3.9 million through the *Regional Health Infrastructure Fund* (RHIF) to deliver this new facility in North Bendigo.

The centre will support patients with counselling, group-based therapeutic programs, clinical space for visiting services (GPs, nursing) and includes an office space for clinicians, counsellors and Needle Syringe Program staff.

Delivering care and treatment for people with addiction issues, the building's name translates to '*finding myself*' in the local Djarra language, with the services set to be operated by Bendigo Community Health Service (BCHS).

The opening of Wyanimbik Wayawan marks another significant milestone for BCHS, with the organisation celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024. An integral health service in Bendigo and the surrounding regions, the hardworking team deliver more than 50 programs to community members in need.

The Labor Government's RHIF is ensuring communities continue to have access to high-quality care, no matter where they live – with the delivery of these projects also supporting hundreds of jobs across the state.

Established by the Labor Government, the RHIF program is now worth \$790 million with more than 675 projects funded for regional health services – the largest investment ever dedicated grants program in Victoria's history.

Quote attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

"We're making sure more people in Bendigo have the health services they need close to home, with this centre helping locals to stay connected to their community while they get the treatment, care, and support they need."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

"This multi-million-dollar new facility is providing Bendigo Community Health Services with the modern facility they need to help transform more local lives for the better."