

## **COVID-19 COMMUNITY ACTIVATION AND SOCIAL ISOLATION INITIATIVE (CASI)**

**The purpose of the letter is to invite you to become a member of the Local Support Network (LSN) for the COVID-19 Community Activation and Social Isolation initiative (CASI).**

The CASI is a Victorian Government initiative to help people maintain important connections with family, friends and local community and to build new social connections and support networks.

- The purpose of CASI is to support and expand community and voluntary activities, ensure they are appropriate and effective, and to reach the most vulnerable and isolated people.
- **The initiative will be directly accessible to the general public via the Victorian COVID Hotline (1800 675 398).**
- All community members (help seekers) calling the COVID Hotline will be connected to their Community Connector, who in turn may connect with other agencies that are part of the Local Support Networks.

**DPV Health is the Community Connector/ Lead Organisation of the CASI initiative for the Hume Local Government Area, along with Sunbury Community Health acting as the Community Connector for community living in the Sunbury area.**

The Lead Organisation has overall responsibility for implementation of the Community Connector function in their LGA and also to:

- support the LSN organisations to draw appropriately on volunteer efforts
- identify opportunities for initiatives to maintain social connections or make new social connections
- support existing partnerships between LSN organisations and create new partnerships as needed

**Members of LSN** are community organisations and volunteer groups that can provide the supports required by the local community. At a minimum, this should include organisations who can help with collecting or delivering supplies, and who can facilitate wellbeing checks and access to social activities.

**Key responsibilities of the LSN partner organisations and groups are to:**

- provide the practical, emotional, community and social supports a person needs
- monitor progress in delivering supports to individuals
- liaise with the lead organisation on any systemic issues that emerge
- provide progress report data to lead organisation according to the CASI requirements
- mobilise and manage volunteers to deliver supports, while protecting the safety, health and wellbeing of volunteers and vulnerable people

We would encourage your participation in this initiative to further support our community during this crisis and welcome further discussions. For details of this project email Rick Jackson or Neela Konara via [populationhealth@dpvhealth.org.au](mailto:populationhealth@dpvhealth.org.au).

Thanking you.

Rick Jackson - Executive Manager, Client Experience

Neela Konara - Team Leader, Population Health