



# Primary Care Partnerships Future Directions 2018 – 2022

‘Cross sector partnerships – PCPs driving local change’

## Alignment to government policy and reform agenda

Over the past 16 years PCPs have continually demonstrated the ability to adapt to the political and social landscape using place based approaches to meet the needs of their local and regional areas.

PCPs are essential as Victoria undergoes a period of significant reform at a federal and state level. They develop and sustain partnerships and leverage these partnerships to:

- deliver health wellbeing outcomes in their local communities
- reduce the impact of changes to the service system on our most vulnerable populations
- assist health and social services to understand how to support consumer choice

The PCP platform provides an ongoing opportunity to implement government health and social policy at a local level e.g. Public Health & Wellbeing Outcomes Framework, National Disability Insurance Scheme, Aged Care, Family Violence Support & Safety Hubs, Vulnerable Children, Mental Health.

## Collaboration and partnership

PCPs connect 800+ organisations across Victoria, two thirds in rural & regional Victoria and one third in metropolitan Melbourne. They are local, regional and state-wide partnership platform/s with a level of maturity and experience other planning and partnership platforms do not have.

One of PCPs greatest strengths and points of difference is cross-sector partnerships, their relationships span across primary health and social service sectors including: different government departments - Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Department of Education & Training (DET), Department of Justice & Regulation (DOJR); Local Government; other planning and partnership platforms - Children & Youth Area Partnerships, Primary Health Networks, Regional & Metropolitan Partnerships.

PCPs identify areas where collaboration is possible and which can deliver greatest public value, and establish appropriate governance and resourcing requirements to foster that collaboration. PCPs provide the backbone function in a collective impact framework.

## Prevention and population health planning

Prevention resourcing in Victoria is an identified gap. PCPs have experience, relationships and the necessary skills to drive this work.

PCPs are heavily involved in aligning prevention planning and supporting Municipal Public Health Wellbeing Planning (MPHW Planning) in their local communities. They bring a partnership approach to MPHW Planning and implementation, ensuring prevention priorities and Integrated Health Promotion (IHP) align with the Victorian public health and wellbeing plan and outcomes framework.

## Client and community empowerment and equity

PCPs focus on supporting service providers and the community to navigate our ever changing complex service system. They identify barriers communities experience when accessing and utilising the service system and work to reduce them.

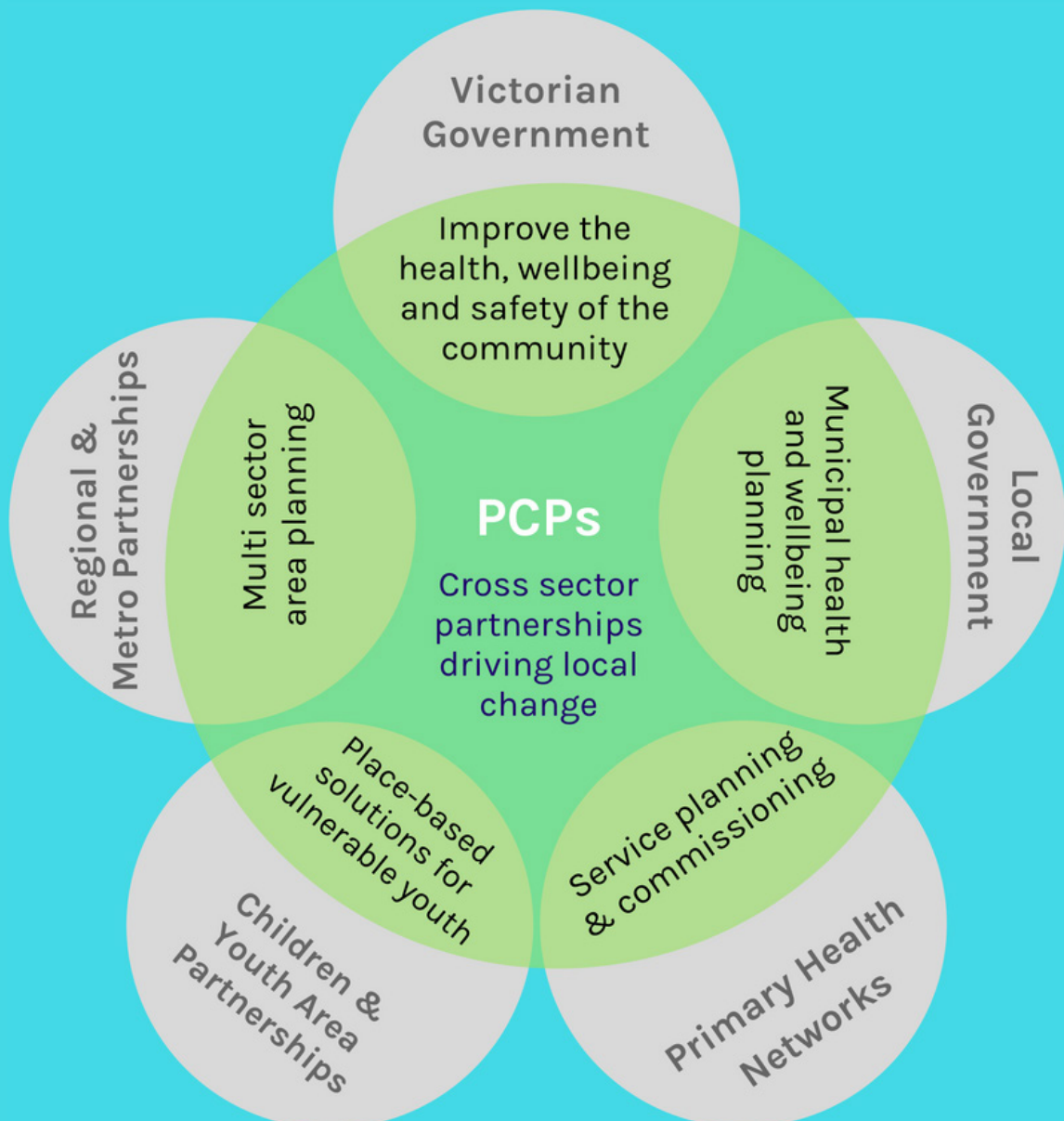
PCPs support organisations to apply an equity lens and social model of health approach to ensure positive outcomes for the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities.

PCPs have extensive experience supporting improved health literacy in member organisations and with targeted communities.

## Facilitating system integration through partnership

This diagram illustrates the broad relationship PCPs have with other partnership and planning platforms. PCPs provide these platforms the opportunity to connect to a larger more diverse network to implement their goals and strategies at local level.

PCPs provide an opportunity to implement other partnership and planning platforms vision and strategies at a local level, to broaden their reach and provide opportunities to work with non-traditional partners.



## Proposed Future Directions

The Victorian Primary Care Partnerships (VicPCPs) propose that PCPs focus efforts based on the key pillars contained in *Health 2040: advancing health access and care (Better Health, Better Access and Better Care)* covering 2 priority areas:

1. **'Prevention'** (*Better Health*):
  - Covering both upstream social determinants and downstream behaviour change
  - Providing support to their partner organisations to have a collective impact on catchment priorities
  - Linking to the Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015-2019 and outcomes framework
2. **'Access, equity & integration'** (combining aspects of the 2nd and 3rd pillars *Better Access* and *Better Care*)
  - Continue to address access barriers for vulnerable populations as well as facilitating how various parts of the system integrate with each other

Initiatives could include, but are not limited to family violence, mental health, alcohol & other drugs, consumer engagement, social inclusion, cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and improving health literacy.

## Future Directions Framework

The future Directions Framework outlines key priority areas, clearly defines PCP role and function, is underpinned by key principles, our focus is on the key Pillars in *Health 2040* and our outcomes align with the *DHHS Strategic Plan 2016 Outcomes Framework*.

