

TIMELINE

- 31 PHNs established throughout Australia, 10 PHNs in NSW and 5 PHNs with rural boundaries

2016

- New England Community Advisory Committee actioned the establishment of a Rural Communities Project

2018

- Rural Communities and Strategy Project established in Glen Innes and Tenterfield
- Grants for drought effected rural communities made available

2020

- Final Report from Shipway Consulting submitted – Better Health for the Bush framework developed, improving the dynamics of general practice and primary health care in small rural and remote communities
- Digital Health Grants – bringing general practice and allied health into the digital sphere.
- Rural COVID-19 vaccine roll out, collaborative activities with aboriginal medical services, local councils and universities.
- Workforce and education initiatives – Fundamentals of Practice Management

Mental Health

- Headspace Armidale opened
- Domestic and Family Violence pilot for General Practice launched in Armidale and Tamworth
- Movement Disorder Nurse Specialist Pilot launched in New England
- Best Practice, Equity, Analysis Pilot (BEAP) Pilot Type 2 Diabetes Project launched in New England

2022

- Community Recovery Grants for communities impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and flooding.
- Better Health for the Bush development of a not-for-profit practice in Glen Innes.
- Research publications of Heart Disease in Rural Areas for the Hunter New England region
- Collaborative project with Tamworth Regional Council to inform health promotion and obesity prevention activities.

2015

- HNECC PHN launch first Health Needs Assessment, identifying needs of rural communities

2017

- ENT Telehealth Project commences in Armidale
- Launch of PHN Rural Workforce Scholarships Program for general practice staff, e.g. Well Women's credentialed training for practice nurses & Medical Practice Assist education for reception staff

2019

- Rural Communities Innovation Coordinator based in Glen Innes & Tenterfield employed through agreement with HNE LHD
- Engagement of Shipway Consulting to consult with community and key stakeholders regarding Health needs, access, and possible workforce solutions. Commencement of the evolution of the Better Health for the Bush Framework
- Bushfire recovery grants offered to rural communities to generate social connection.

2021

Recruitment and Retention incentives

- GP Bush grants for the NENW
- River Run Grants for Manning region
- Recruitment Starter grants for GP Practices
- Pilot of the Welcome Ambassador Program
- Launch re-location campaign using social media, Qantas magazine & small-town profiles for prospective health professionals

Workforce and Education Initiatives

- Fundamentals of Healthcare
- First Nations specific Medical Practice Assist Course
- HPMI grants made available to General Practice Staff for virtual continuous professional development and education

Place based activities:

- Glen Innes - Better Health for the Bush model development
- Bingara and Tenterfield general practice support
- Gunnedah project- local council collaborative with HNE LHD, RDN, PHN and local council.
- Coal Services Health - Gunnedah, establishment of co-located primary care clinic.
- Nundle GP Outreach- Three-way partnership between HNE LHD, PHN and Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Services.

Mental Health:

- Headspace Taree Opened

2022/
2023