

Who is Pathways Connect for?

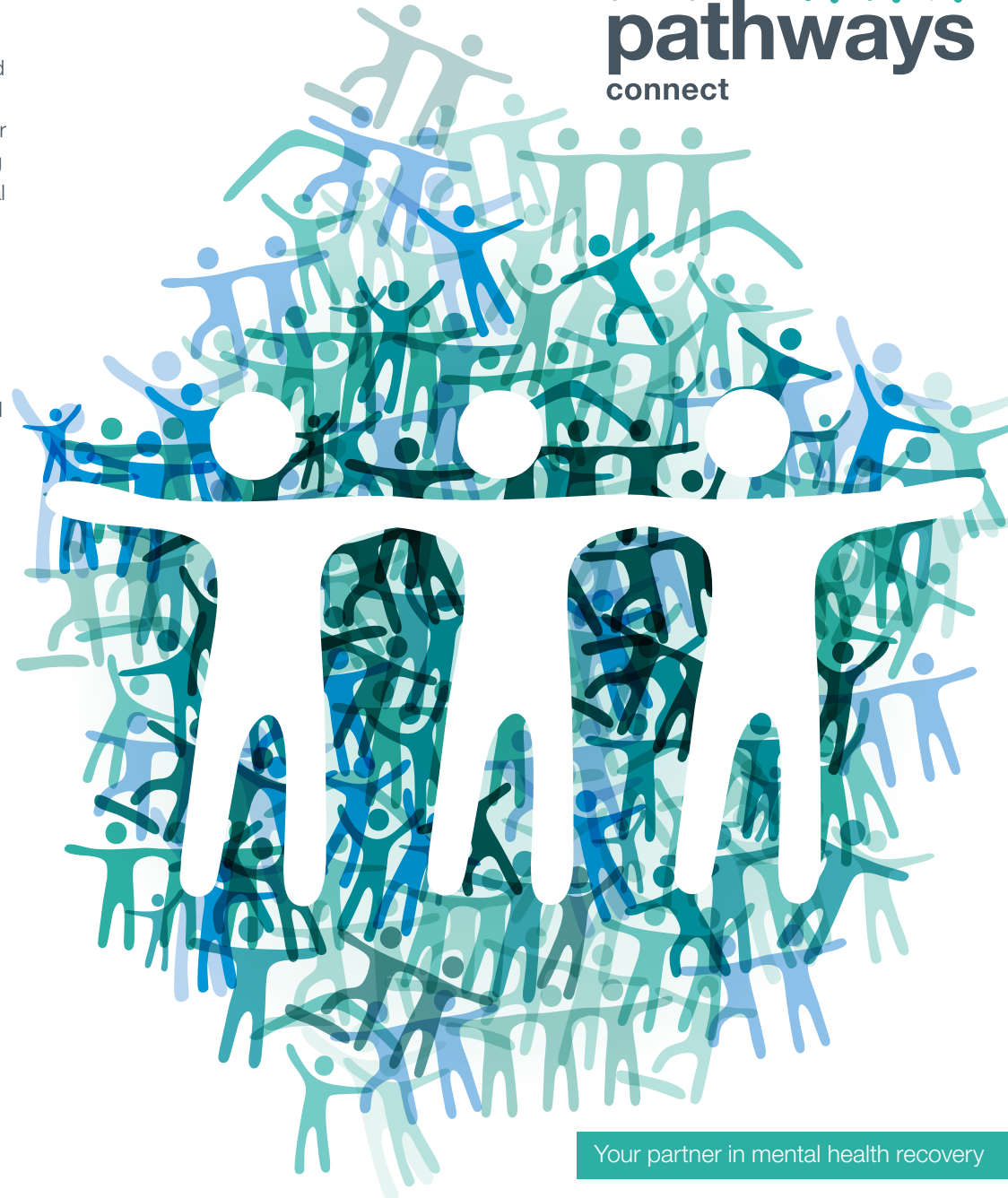
Pathways Connect identifies and promotes better housing and health outcomes for people with complex needs who are leaving a psychiatric inpatient setting or who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Ermha programs are funded by the Victorian Government Department of Human Services and/or the Victorian Government Department of Health.



Ermha is a community based organisation that supports recovery and instils hope for people who are experiencing the effects of a severe mental illness. Ermha clients may also have complex needs associated with a disability, substance abuse or housing instability. We recognise that each client has their own strengths, needs, desires and aspirations, and our range of programs are designed accordingly.

For more information about Pathways Connect or any other Ermha program call 1300 ermha1, email reception@ermha.org or visit www.ermha.org



Your partner in mental health recovery

People with a mental illness or disability often face more than the usual challenges in securing accommodation.

Pathways Connect facilitates greater accommodation continuity for people who are leaving a psychiatric setting. We also seek to improve the health and wellbeing of people with complex needs who are homeless, at housing risk or living in low cost accommodation.

Pathways Connect is made up of two programs, Community Connections and Mental Health Pathways.

- Community Connections uses an assertive outreach approach to identify people who are experiencing a mental illness or who have complex unmet needs, and who are homeless or living in insecure accommodation.
- Mental Health Pathways works with people who are current psychiatric inpatients at Southern Health's Dandenong, Casey and Monash hospitals, and who are at risk of homelessness when discharged.

Our starting point is an Individual Support Plan (ISP), tailored to client need and circumstance, and designed in collaboration with the client, a Pathways Connect support worker and other key stakeholders. The ISP specifies accommodation goals and articulates the skills clients will need to acquire in order to access other community services. These services might include those of a GP or psychologist, and other mental health resources.

Contact

For more information please call Ermha reception on 1300 ermha1 (1300 376 421) or email reception@ermha.org

Community Connections Program

Community Connections links people with complex needs who live in low cost accommodation, or are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to essential services.

Community Connections also

- Provides advocacy and short term case management
- Promotes participants' emotional and social wellbeing
- Provides assistance to meet critical social, emotional and health needs

Catchment

Community Connections provides services to residents of the City of Greater Dandenong, the City of Casey and the Shire of Cardinia.

Mental Health Pathways

Mental Health Pathways Program is a partnership between Ermha, Southern Health and WAYSS, a major provider of housing and related support services.

Southern Health case managers, together with Mental Health Pathways staff, provide short and long term case management support for people at risk of homelessness who are leaving Southern Health's Dandenong, Casey or Monash adult psychiatric inpatient units.

Mental Health Pathways

- In collaboration with WAYSS, provides clients with introductions to housing services that offer safe and secure long term public housing and private accommodation options
- Advocates on behalf of clients to secure stable accommodation
- Provides links to access community services
- Refers clients to specialist and long term support services

Eligibility

Community Connections clients are people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and who

- Live in low cost accommodation (including caravan parks, Supported Residential Services (SRS's), rooming houses, public housing and private motels)
- Have complex unmet needs (these can include physical, mental and intellectual disabilities, acquired brain injury, substance abuse problems, health issues and challenging behaviours)

Referrals

Referrals can be made by community service organisations, friends, family members and health professionals. We also accept self referrals.

Catchment

Mental Health Pathways covers the City of Greater Dandenong, the City of Casey, the Shire of Cardinia, and the local government area of Frankston East.

Eligibility

Mental Health Pathways clients

- Are 18 years of age and over
- Are inpatients at Southern Health's Dandenong, Casey or Monash psychiatric units
- Intend to reside in our catchment area when discharged
- Have multiple and complex needs
- Are homeless or at risk of homelessness upon discharge

Referrals

Referrals to Mental Health Pathways are made through the Dandenong, Casey or Monash Hospital social work departments.