



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday, 31 January 2017**

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### **SWAMS mental health services secures State Govt funding**

SWAMS received a much-needed boost for its mental health services last week, welcoming \$78,046 in Regional Grants Scheme funding from the State Government.

SWAMS CEO Lesley Nelson said the funding would support the refurbishment of office space at the clinic, to accommodate SWAMS' mental health team.

She said the refurbished rooms would provide a safe and welcoming environment for SWAMS clients during appointments and counselling sessions.

SWAMS welcomed new Mental Health Coordinator Jacqui Davis and Mental Health Indigenous Outreach Worker Darin Turvey to the team recently.

They joined long-time Social Worker Joyce Dimer, which enables SWAMS' mental health services to support clients Monday to Friday.

Ms Nelson said the mental health team would also be supported by Aboriginal Health Workers Elizabeth Narkle and Jenny Wallam.

"It's the first important step in SWAMS being able to increase its reach in a service that is much-needed for our community," Ms Nelson said.

"We recognise the impact mental health issues can have on families and carers, and we want to help our clients through education, counselling and open communication.

"SWAMS will be encouraging clients to seek support from our staff."

Ms Nelson said SWAMS has offered mental health services to its community for many years, with this service complimented through vital partnerships with Bunbury Counselling and Relationships Australia.

"Our mental health staff officially came together as a team this month and they have hit the ground running. A key focus will be working on a suicide prevention program in collaboration with various agencies throughout the state," she said.

SWAMS Board Member Lera Bennell reiterated SWAMS' vision to provide high-quality, holistic and accessible services to the community.

"This recent boost in mental health services further cements SWAMS focus to achieve this vision," Ms Bennell said.

"We are extremely grateful to the State Government for its support in helping SWAMS continue to pursue best-practice and culturally appropriate health services for our community."

**Caption: At the announcement of the State Government's Community Chest Fund and Regional Grants Scheme are (from left) South West MLC Colin Holt, Bunbury MLA John Castrilli, SWAMS' Board Member Lera Bennell, CEO Lesley Nelson and Board Chairman Karim Khan.**



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For media enquiries please contact SWAMS Public Relations Officer Tahnia Creedon on (08) 9791 1166.