

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 29 July 2025**

### **New free mental health centre on Canberra's southside**

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Today the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride and Federal Member for Bean, David Smith launched the new Tuggeranong Medicare Mental Health Centre.

Canberrans on the southside can receive free face-to-face mental health support, assessment and advice. The centre is staffed by a multidisciplinary team including Psychologists, Mental Health Workers and Social Workers.

Capital Health Network (CHN) CEO Stacy Leavens said the Tuggeranong Medicare Mental Health Centre will provide free and accessible mental health services to adults, without an appointment, referral or Medicare card.

“Like the centre in Canberra’s city centre, the new Tuggeranong Medicare Mental Health Centre provides free mental health services. Clients can be connected to other services, including social supports like housing and employment,” said Ms Leavens, CHN CEO.

Think Mental Health’s Clinical Director and Clinical Psychologist, Vanessa Hamilton said the centre will continue to guide Canberrans to access the right local mental health information, services and support.

“We’re proud to open the new Tuggeranong Medicare Mental Health Centre. This is an important step in expanding these services into the Tuggeranong region to ensure that southside residents have timely access to mental health support, when and where they need it. We have designed this space to be inclusive, trauma-informed and culturally safe, because we know that the best care happens when people feel seen, heard and respected,” said Ms Hamilton.

CHN, ACT’s Primary Health Network (PHN) commissioned Think Mental Health to deliver the Tuggeranong and Canberra Medicare Mental Health Centres, supported by funding from the ACT PHN through the Australian Government’s PHN Program.

The Tuggeranong Medicare Mental Health Centre is at the corner of Anketell and Cowlshaw Streets, Greenway Waters. The centres provide free, immediate, short and medium-term care to any adult. No appointment or referral required. For more information, phone 1800 595 212.