

Introduction session

December 2025



Speakers



Mandy Hutchinson is the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. Mandy is a strong advocate for improving health and wellbeing outcomes for regional and rural communities.



Dale Hardy is the **Executive Leader of Community Partnerships and Integration**. Dale has a strong focus on diversity, leading our work in reconciliation and with refugee/new settlers.



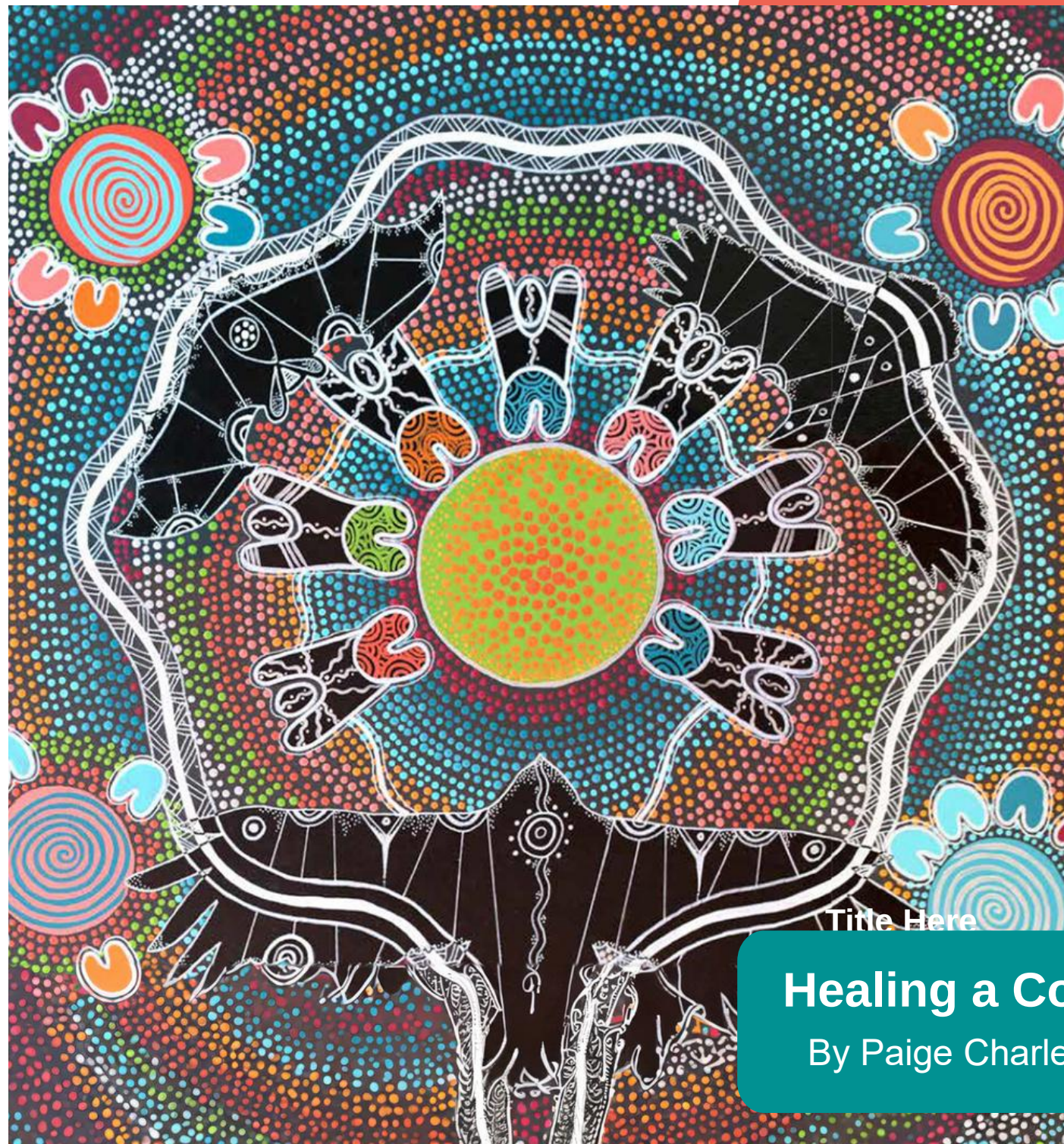
Jo Rasmussen holds the role of **Strategic Advisor** and leads the **Insights and Analytics** team. Jo is a national award-winning advocate, who is passionate about bringing people to the table.

Acknowledgement of country

We acknowledge we live, work and enjoy Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country.

We extend our appreciation to the Djaara and Taungurung peoples. We pay respect to Elders past and present for their continued holding of memories, traditions, culture and community aspirations.

We recognize that sovereignty has never been ceded and express our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of colonization and their lasting impact. May we walk forward together in harmony and the spirit of healing. It was and always will be Aboriginal Land.



Healing a Community

By Paige Charles-Morgan

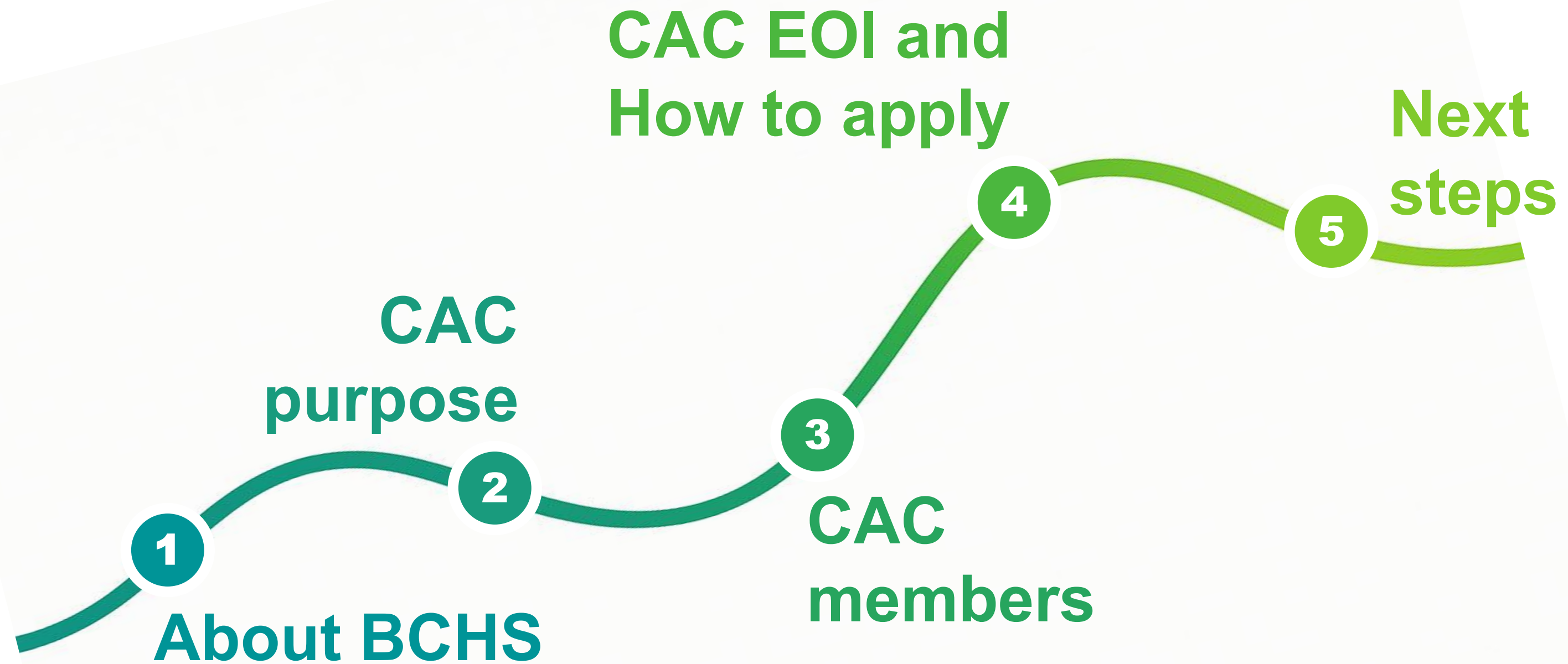
Recognition of lived and living experience

We recognise the expertise which comes from people's life experiences and the leaders who have come before us.

We recognise your vital contribution at all levels and value the courage of those who share this unique perspective and expert knowledge for the purpose of learning and growing together to achieve better outcomes for all.



Today's session



About us



Bendigo Community Health Services is a not-for-profit organisation working hand-in-hand with our community to achieve better health and wellbeing across generations.

We exist to:

- Make a fundamental difference in the lives of vulnerable people.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and preventative practices.
- Provide services to improve individual and community health and wellbeing.
- Lead and coordinate primary and community health services and activities.

History

1974 - 2025

HIGHLIGHTS & MILESTONES



1 JULY 1, 1974



The Eaglehawk and Long Gully Community Health Centre opens in Bright Street, Eaglehawk.

2 1975

The Kangaroo Flat Community Health Centre opens in 'The Green Cottage'.

3 1976



A new, purpose-built site opens in Seymoure Street, Eaglehawk, over the capped South Virginia Mine Shaft.

2005

7

BCHS takes on management of the Elmore site.

2004

6

Residential detox unit Nova House opens in North Bendigo.

"Our focus 20 years ago, and it still is, is to have a homely and welcoming space that reflects our country values," - AOD Senior Leader Sheenah Van Eck.

5 1991

Eaglehawk & Kangaroo Flat merge, along with Bendigo Regional Drug & Alcohol Service and the Playhouse Childcare Centre to become **Bendigo Community Health Services**.



4 1980

Bendigo Family Day Care begins.

12

2025

Our new-look Eaglehawk site was officially launched on Friday, September 12 at a grand opening where community, politicians, past and present staff and others gathered to mark a milestone for the service.



2010



8

Settlement Services begin for people of refugee background. The first of thousands of Karen people are welcomed to Bendigo.



9 2011

headspace Bendigo opens for young people aged 12-25. "Mental health is the single biggest health issue confronted by young people. Headspace will enable us to treat the whole person." - then-CEO Kim Sykes said on the announcement.



10 2023

Works begin to refurbish the 48-year-old Seymoure Street building in Eaglehawk.



11

2024

The Endometriosis & Pelvic Pain clinic launches at the central site.



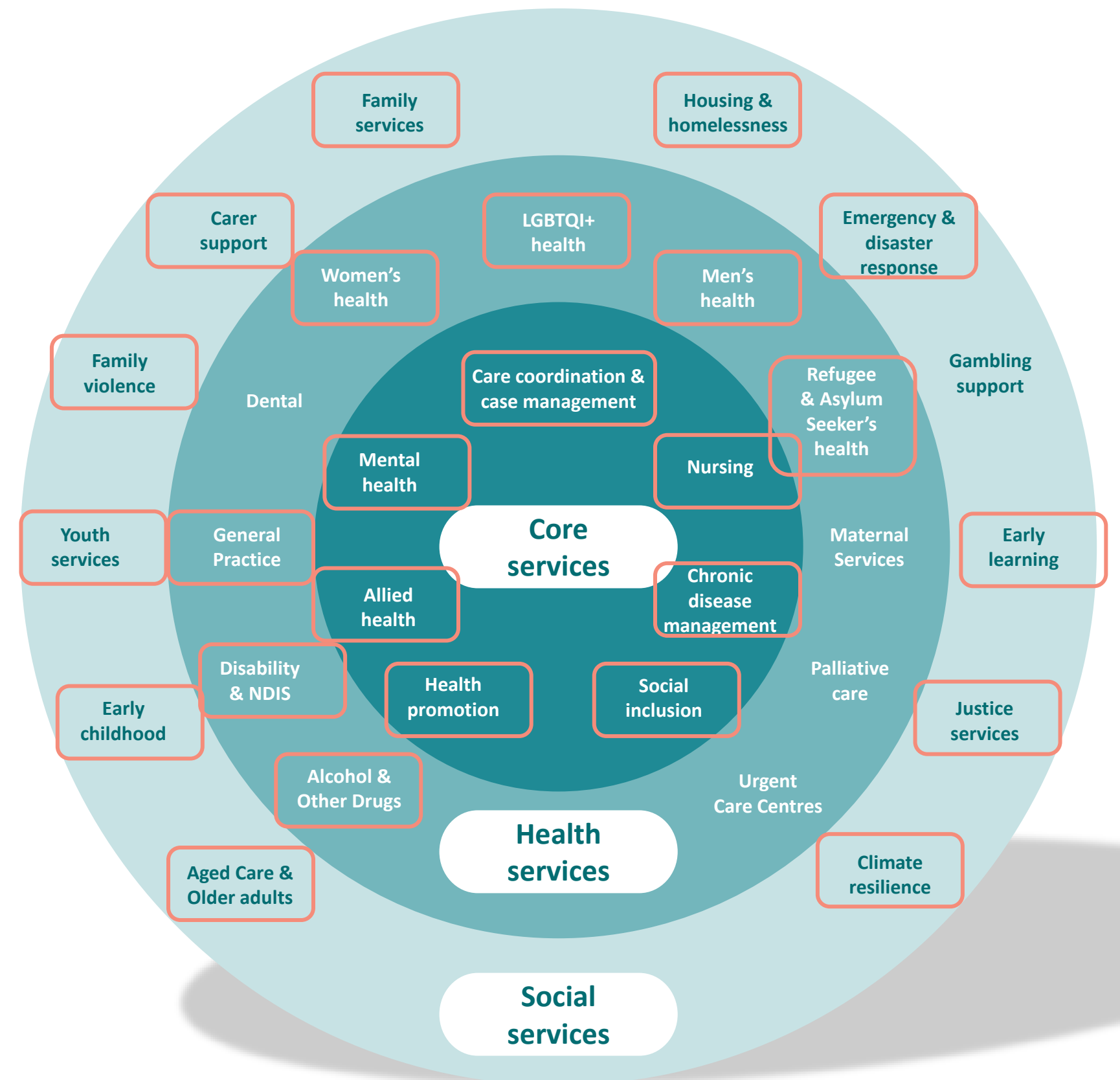
AOD Wellbeing Centre Wanyanimbik Wayawan opens in Holdsworth Road.

Services

Community health provides a wide range of support and services to address the diverse needs of all Victorians. All community health organisations provide the core services that form the foundation of community health.

BCHS is one of 23 community health services. Each organisation then builds on the core services offering a range of additional health and social support **tailored to local needs**.

BCHS has more than 270 staff and more than **50 services** funded through various government health programs, community donations and sponsorships.



Source: Community Health: People, place, and partnerships. Impact report 2024-25

Locations

We provide services from **eight sites** within the City of Greater Bendigo local government area (LGA).



Bendigo Central



Kangaroo Flat



Elmore



headspace



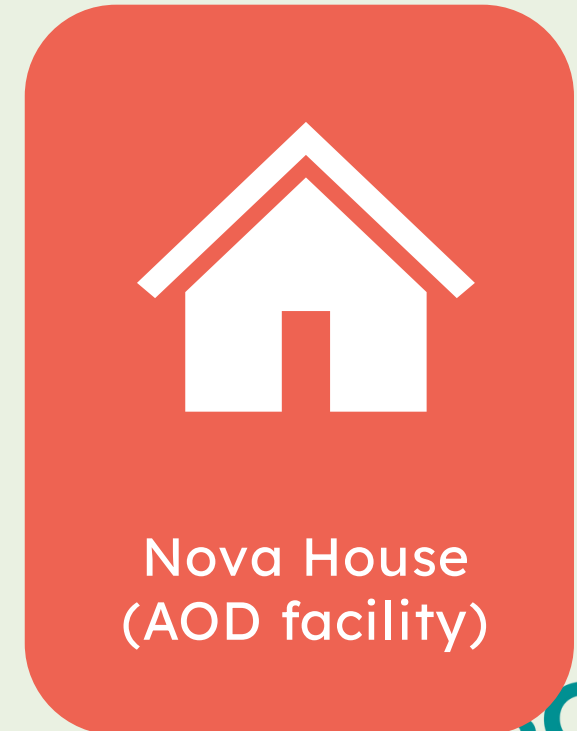
North Bendigo



White Hills



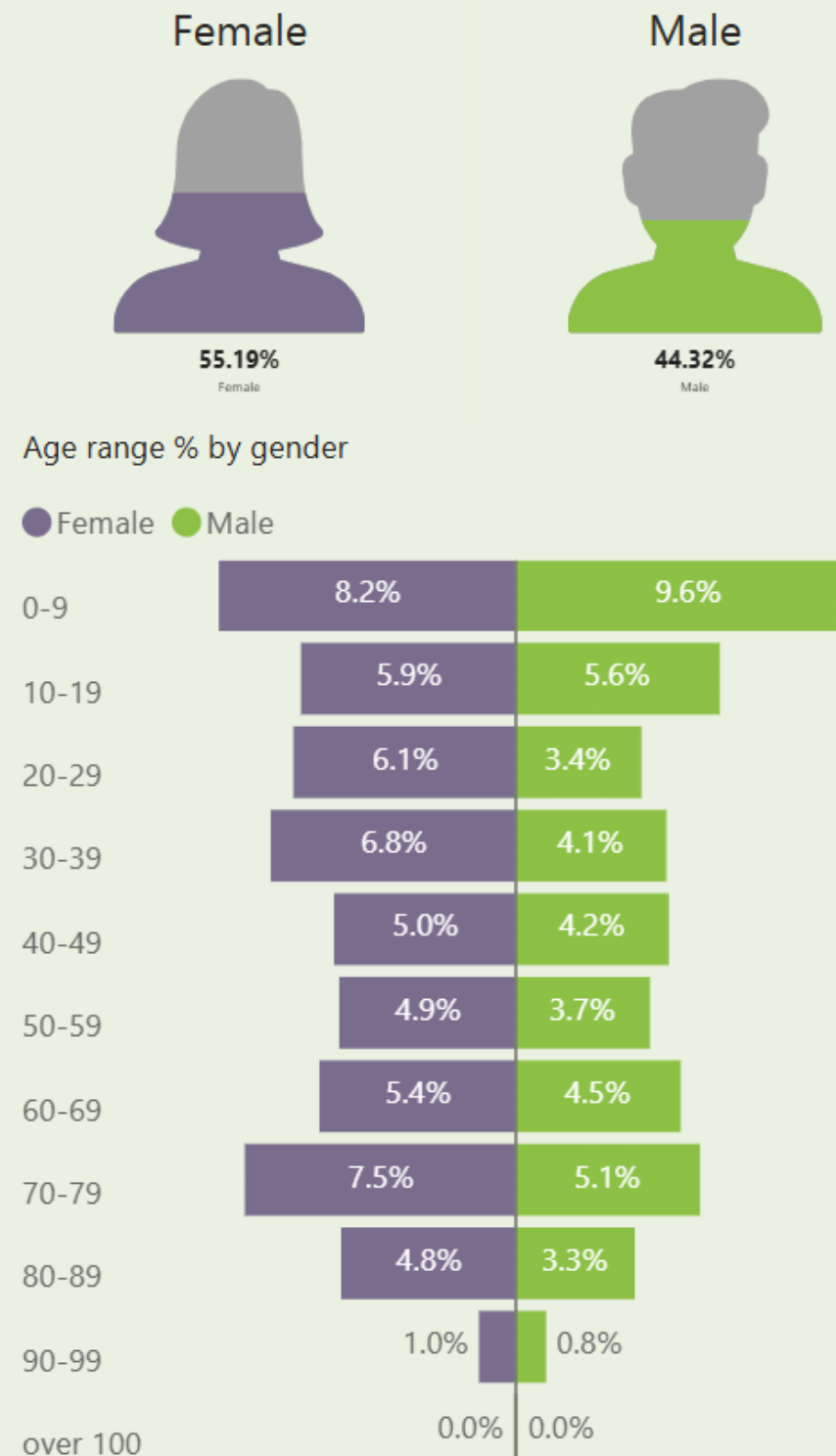
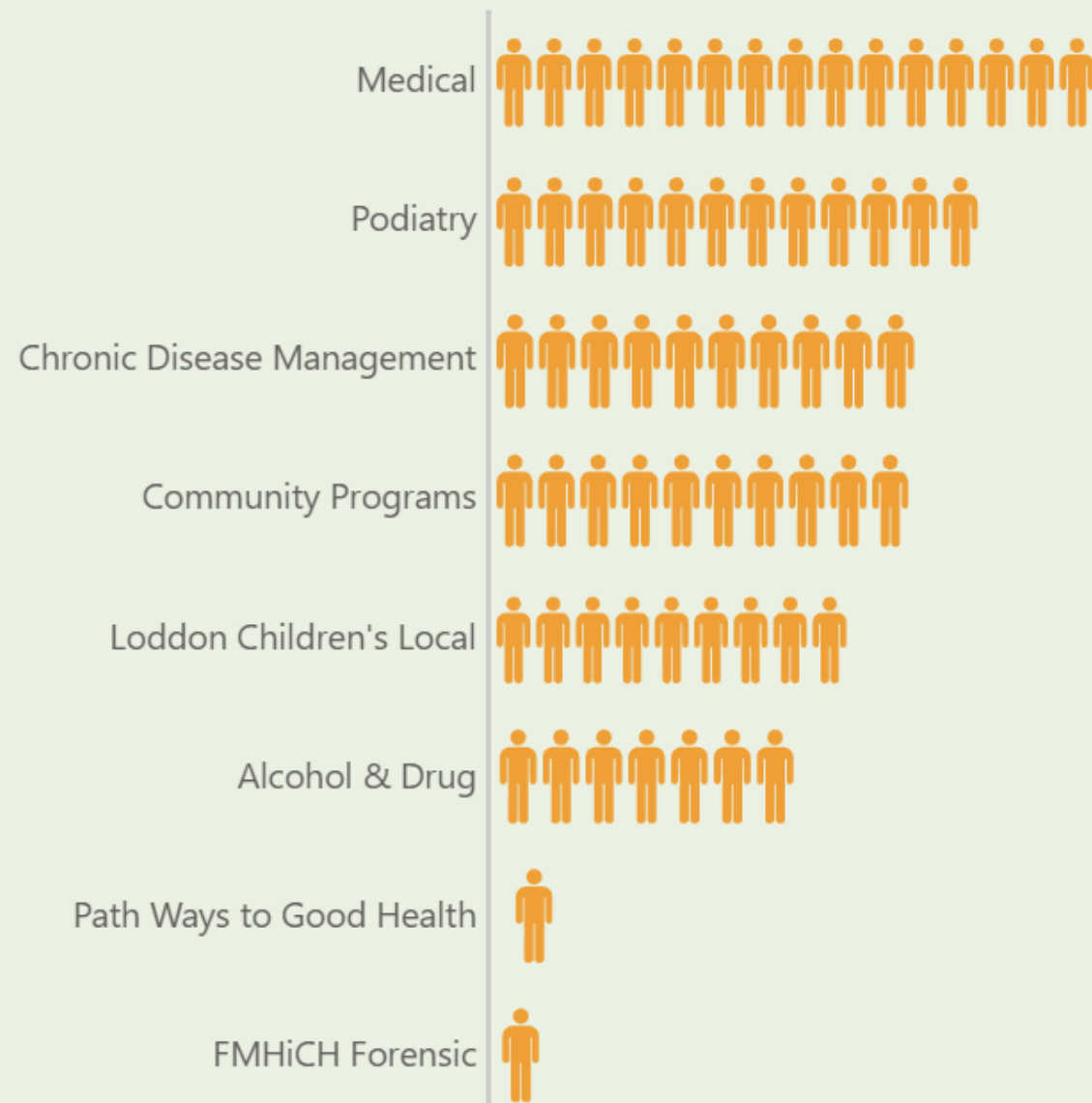
Eaglehawk



**Nova House
(AOD facility)**

Our impact

Distribution of active clients across BCHS programs (top ranked only)



DEMOGRAPHICS

7653
INDIVIDUALS

10464
EPISODES

7.6%
First Nations

10.0%
Unemployed

10.3%
Born overseas

1.2%
Unstable/temp housing

6.7%
English not primary lang.

16.6%
Reside outside CoGB

In 2025, we have supported over 7500 individuals in our community, across the lifespan, from infants to over 100 years old.

Note: This data does not include all BCHS programs, such as headspace or settlement support clients which are captured in different systems.



CAC Purpose

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) gives local advice from the point of view of consumers, carers, and community members. This helps Bendigo Community Health Service **understand and meet the diverse needs of the people we support.**

Being a Community Advisory Committee member is a voluntary role. The Committee gives advice but does not make final decisions.

We value your expertise, so you will be paid for your attendance at meetings.



CAC Purpose

The Committee will:

- Provide a safe and welcoming space where members can share their experiences
- Identify ways to improve BCHS systems, programs, and policies
- Give advice about health and social service priorities and other issues affecting community wellbeing
- Help share knowledge between BCHS and community members

CAC members

We are interested in hearing from all ages and backgrounds, including people living with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and those with a broad range of lived experience.

We are looking for people who can represent a community.

You can apply. even if you have never used BCHS services.



CAC members

Members are expected to:

- Attend about 10 meetings each year (at least 7 minimum)
- Complete training, orientation, and induction for the role
- Show interest in the work of the Committee
- Ask questions that reflect community needs and viewpoints
- Take part in discussions in a positive, open and respectful way
- Keep sensitive or private information confidential
- Join BCHS activities when asked

For more details on the role of being a Community Advisory Committee member click [here](#).

CAC EOI

The Expression of Interest (EOI) form is an online form which will ask you a series of questions, so we can get to know your experiences and why you are interested in joining the CAC.

The first question will ask if you need any help filling in the form. If you say yes, a member of our team will **contact you** to support you in applying.



How to apply

Via our website: <https://www.bchs.com.au/bring-your-voice-to-the-bchs-community-advisory-committee/>
(Information on the CAC can be found in the News section)

Or via the QR Code below, which will take you straight to the EOI form

Fill in an Expression of Interest by January 31, 2026
by scanning the QR code

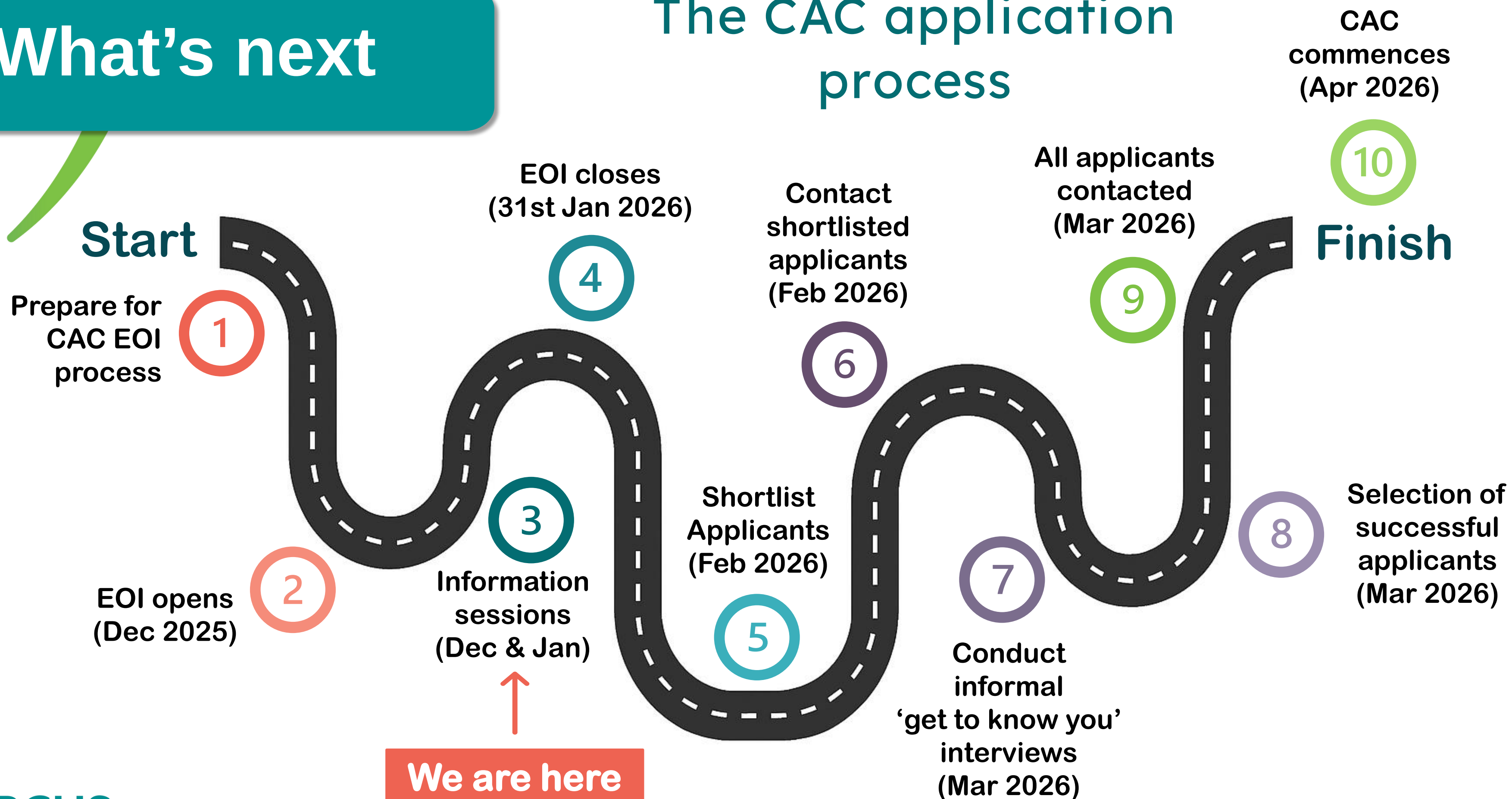


bchs.com.au



What's next

The CAC application process



Support needs

As part of the ‘getting to know you’ conversations, we will be asking about any support needs you may have.



We will do our best to support you to be able to attend meetings. Some ways we maybe able to help include;

- Transport
- IT support, including providing a device
- Interpreters
- Hearing facilities in the meeting room
- Virtual access to meetings

More information



If you have any further questions about the CAC or the application process, you can contact us using this method:

- Send an email to bchs@bchs.com.au with CAC as the subject line. Dale or Jo will then follow-up on your enquiry.

Summary

To summarise the information outlined in this presentation;

- More information on the CAC, can be found [here](#)
- The CAC role description, can be found [here](#)
- Expression of interest form, can be found [here](#) or use QR Code below
- Further questions, email bchs@bchs.com.au with CAC as the subject line

Fill in an Expression of Interest by January 31, 2026
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 bchs.com.au



Questions

We will be available after the session if you want to talk to us directly.

There are also other BCHS staff here who are also happy to answer any questions you may have.

