



NEW HORIZONS: Students from across Sunraysia took part in a 'come to try' day for allied health professions this week.

Healthy come and try

SUNRAYSIA secondary school students were this week given insights into allied health sector careers.

With workforce shortages across disciplines, a "come to try" day was hosted by Sunraysia Community Health Services, Mildura Base Public Hospital and Northern Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network.

It was about promoting to local students what careers might be possible in the field.

Sunraysia Community Health Services workforce development manager Jayne Hunt said the students did hands-on activities and learnt what professionals do day-to-day.

"In our Mildura region we recognise there is a mass shortage of allied health professionals, so we've gone back to the grassroots," Ms Hunt said.

"We've invited the high school students from Year 9 and 10 to come and try allied health professions.

"They've come today and learnt about these professions - such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, speech pathology, social work."

Hospital allied health staff attended, while La Trobe University and SuniTAFE also presented about pathways and relevant subjects for students to choose.

About 40 students took part, from eight schools, coming from as far as Robinvale.

"The students' feedback was absolutely fantastic," Ms Hunt said.

"They had so much fun, they learnt so much about the different disciplines and hopefully we've talked a lot of them into picking an allied health career pathways."

Executive officer, Northern Mallee LLEN, Rod Martin said: "Northern Mallee LLEN (NMLLEN) was proud to be a part of the Allied Health "Come to Try" Day facilitated by SCHS, MBPH, and supported by NMLLEN.

"NMLLEN wants to congratulate all secondary schools and students that attended the day to provide students with fantastic opportunities to hear and try hands-on activities with qualified Allied Health professionals," he said.

Director of Clinical Learning and Development at MBPH, Tim De Boo said that Come to Try Day was a huge success with many students from across the Sunraysia region attending.

"Our clinicians had a great time sharing insights into what their day-to-day activities involve with the students and all left stating that it was great to see such a large turnout," he said.

"Mildura Base Public Hospital and Sunraysia Community Health Services look forward to continuing to support our local students throughout their journey to become the future generation of allied health professionals."

- MICHAEL DIFABRIZIO