

Doctors in Secondary Schools

Seeking expressions of interest from general practices and GPs to support school-based service delivery

What is the Doctors in Secondary Schools initiative?

The Victorian Government is making sure young people are getting the health support, advice and treatment they need so they can reach their full potential.

The \$43.8 million Doctors in Secondary Schools initiative is delivering on the election commitment to provide school-based health services for 100 Victorian secondary schools most in need. The initiative will build modern clinical facilities onsite at schools and fund up to one day per week of a general practitioner (GP) to provide both primary care for students and contribute to the school's existing student wellbeing programs to help increase health literacy and preventive health. An accompanying role for a nurse to work with the GP, particularly in care coordination, is also under consideration with details available when finalised. Clinics will open in the first 20 schools during Term 1, 2017. From Term 3, 2017, forty more will open, with the final 40 starting from Term 1, 2018.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Make primary health care more accessible to students and thereby help reduce unmet needs
- Provide assistance to young people to identify and address any health problems early
- Reduce the pressure on working parents and community-based GPs
The initiative recognises that adolescents are often the lowest users of health care services and can experience significant unmet physical and mental health needs, which in turn can affect their engagement with education. Doctors in Secondary Schools will make a valuable contribution toward achieving the Education State school targets for 'happy, healthy and resilient kids' by improving ease of access to health services for young people.

How will the service work?

Selected Victorian Government secondary schools in this pilot program will work together with local general practices to enable and deliver primary health care services on school premises. It is anticipated that a GP will attend the school for up to one day a week to assist students identify and address any health problems early. School-based primary care services will not only address issues faced in the supply of care, but will also raise health awareness among young people, including awareness about how to seek care within the school and community. The services will operate according to World Health Organisation standards for quality youth focussed care.

All secondary school students who are enrolled in a participating Victorian Government secondary school will be able to access the GP, subject to providing the requisite consent for the services. The Doctors in Secondary Schools program is not intended to replace existing relationships with family doctors or fragment healthcare support, but rather to supplement, or provide access to a GP in areas where access is limited or for students without an existing GP. Where young people have existing relationships with GPs, it is expected that the school-based GP will liaise with the existing GP so they can provide the best support possible.

School-based GPs will be paid through the initiative for their work in the schools and consultations will be bulk-billed through Medicare; there will be no out-of-pocket expenses for consultations with the GP on the school premises.

How is this initiative being coordinated?

The Department of Education and Training (DET) is working with Victoria's six Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to engage general practices in their catchments to provide suitably experienced GPs to work with participating schools.

The PHN's role is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time. PHNs will support the GPs in schools to be integrated with community-based primary care services to enable best-practice patient-centred care. PHNs will also work with DET to ensure GPs receive the best quality evidence-based training before starting their work in the school. GPs will receive ongoing professional development and debriefing on various important topics GPs will encounter working within schools.

Doctors in Secondary Schools: Western Victoria

Western Victoria PHN is committed to quality and accessible primary health care for western Victoria. Our catchment area includes a population in excess of 600,000 people in regional cities, rural towns and small communities.

Western Victoria PHN has four regional centres located in:

- Horsham
- Ballarat
- Geelong
- Warrnambool.

Western Victoria PHN seeks to engage local general practices to provide GPs for the Doctors in Secondary Schools initiative to work in partnership with schools, training providers, and other stakeholders.

There are four schools in the Western Victoria PHN region that will have services commence in Term 1 in 2017, with additional schools commencing later in 2017 and 2018. The first 20 participating schools are:

- Ballarat Secondary College – Wendouree Campus
- Mount Clear College
- Brauer Secondary College
- Portland Secondary College.

Schools participating **outside** of Western Victoria PHN region are:

- Boronia K-12 College - Rangeview Campus
- Craigieburn Secondary College
- Crusoe 7-10 Secondary College
- Kyneton Secondary College
- Monterey Secondary College
- Mount Alexander 7-12 College
- Narre Warren South P-12 College

- Oakwood School - Noble Park Campus
- Pakenham Secondary College
- Rosebud Secondary College
- Sunbury College
- Traralgon College - East Campus
- Upper Yarra Secondary College
- Wedderburn College
- Whittlesea College
- Yarrawonga College P-12 - Pinniger Street Campus.

Seeking expressions of interest from general practices to provide school-based services

Western Victoria PHN is seeking to engage general practices with an interest in adolescent health to apply to deliver school-based services from early 2017 onwards. The general practice will provide suitable general practitioner/s and deliver youth-friendly medical services, in partnership and collaboration with the participating school and staff.

Indicative requirements, roles and responsibilities are summarised below.

General practices

Essential clinic criteria:

- Hold accreditation by an approved accrediting agency as per the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme
- Access to practice software, willingness and ability to query practice software, and report data
- Provide bulk-billing services for students (or willingness to do so).

Key responsibilities will include:

- Provide an appropriately qualified general practitioner to undertake medical consultations with students on school grounds up to one day a week
- Support the GP to implement clinical strategies where necessary (e.g. providing vaccinations)
- Securely store and maintain student medical records
- Manage billing and remuneration of participating staff
- Support participating staff to fulfil any reporting or data collection requirements.

General practitioner

The program is seeking GPs who are experienced in or have a commitment to working in adolescent health.

Key responsibilities will include:

- Provide medical advice and primary health care for students in partnership with a nurse
- Work collaboratively with the school program lead, school health and wellbeing teams, school administrators and teachers to support promotion of the service and enhance student participation
- Attend initial training and ongoing professional development activities related to the role
- Comply with relevant DET policy and procedures

- Comply with any reporting or data collection requirements
- Participate in the evaluation activities of the program.

Essential criteria:

- Hold a medical degree with license to practice in Australia
- Hold appropriate professional indemnity cover
- Hold an AHPRA registration with no restrictions on scope of practice
- Experience in working within a multidisciplinary team
- Excellent oral and written communication skills both with patients and professional staff, including school staff, community health providers and other GPs involved with the care of the young person
- Take a non-judgemental approach to care on any clinical issue that may arise
- Understand the concept of care coordination for patients with complex needs and vulnerability, as well as the concept of harm minimisation.

Desirable criteria – experience in, and understanding of, any of the following:

- Child and adolescent health
- Mental health
- Drug and alcohol services
- Forensic health services
- Community health
- Indigenous health
- Refugee and migrant health
- Sexual and reproductive health.

Nurse role

The key responsibilities for this role will include:

- Providing clinical, relationship and administrative management support for the GP
- Support the GP to contribute to the school's existing health and wellbeing programs to improve health literacy and preventive health
- Scheduling appointments and follow-ups as necessary for students and coordinate referrals with secondary health and wellbeing services
- Understanding and applying the consent and confidentiality requirements which apply to both the GP and the school
- Order, store and monitor medical supplies and medications in accordance with applicable law
- Maintain accurate and timely records of clinical activity for assessment, planning, implementation (and evaluation purposes as required), ensuring confidentiality of information relating to students and their families.

Additional details

All participating GPs, nurses and school staff will be provided training in adolescent health, at no cost.

Participating schools that currently have a GP will be supported to continue with the existing arrangements.

Eligible general practitioners not currently affiliated with a general practice are also invited to nominate their interest; however, preference will be given to general practices.

Further resources

Western Victoria PHN website: www.westvicphn.com.au

Doctors in Secondary Schools website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/doctors-secondary-schools.aspx>

DET Doctors in Secondary Schools Fact Sheet:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/DoctorsinSecondaryFactSheet.pdf>

School term dates:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/datesterm.aspx?&Redirect=1>

Contact information

General practices, general practitioners and nurses are invited to contact Western Victoria PHN to express their interest in this exciting initiative. Further information and detail on the application process will follow.

Please send name and/or general practice name and contact details to info@westvicphn.com.au

If you require additional information, please contact:

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