

# Media Release

Friday 2 March 2018

## Bankstown After Hours Medical Care

Access to after hours GP care has been boosted across South Western Sydney with new services opening in Campbelltown, Liverpool, Fairfield and Bankstown from today.

The services, commissioned by South Western Sydney PHN to provide GP care on weekday evenings, weekends and public holidays, are a welcome expansion to the local primary care options already available.

Additional GP care, all fully bulk billed, is now available from 6pm to 10pm on weeknights and from 2pm to 10pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays at **Brigadoon Medical Centre, corner Macarthur Ave and Brett St, Revesby.**

The services have been made available by the Federal Government, through South Western Sydney PHN's After Hours Practice Cooperative Grants, to give local residents greater access to GP care closer to home and to help ensure people are not attending local hospital emergency departments unnecessarily.

South Western Sydney PHN Chief Executive Officer Keith McDonald said the grants ensured after hours medical services were now available within existing primary care practices, with GPs at the centre of patient care.

"The launch of these new services marks an exciting change in the way after hours care is delivered in South Western Sydney," Mr McDonald said.

"We want all local residents to know their after hours care options and have access to a GP for urgent care in the after hours period, in a general practice setting.

"The best way to do this is to support local practices to expand their services and to support the community to know how they can find appropriate services open near them."

Australian Medical Cooperative Limited will operate the after hours services in Campbelltown, Fairfield and Bankstown, while Liverpool Medical Services will operate the service in that LGA.

Australian Medical Cooperative Limited's clinical lead, Fairfield GP Dr Joe Nicholas, said the clinics would run from existing practices with the group looking to expand services through a mobile medical van in the coming months.

"Our goal is to ensure local residents receive after hours GP care and keep the emergency department for emergencies," Dr Nicholas said.

"Our clinics are staffed by local GPs, are fully bulk billed and no appointment is necessary."

### **After hours, if you are sick, injured or need non-urgent medical care you should:**

- Contact your regular GP to check if they are open or have after hours arrangements in place.
- Download the Healthdirect app and use the 'Find a health service' section to check local practices are open near you including the local after hours service.

For after hours select 'general practice' then 'refine' and scroll to select 'open now' and 'bulk billing' or visit [swsphn.com.au](http://swsphn.com.au)

- Call the GP Helpline on 1800 022 222 for medical advice and support.

- Or use one of the available Home GP Services through:

Sydney Medical Service 1300 466 347, DoctorDoctor 13 26 60 or National Home Doctor Service 13 74 25.

Areas covered vary. Fees may apply. Check when calling.

If your condition is life threatening, visit your local emergency department or call 000

For more information on after hours care in South Western Sydney visit [swsphn.com.au](http://swsphn.com.au).

South Western Sydney PHN is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting general practitioners, practice nurses and other primary health providers to deliver the best possible care for their patients. Our aim is to improve access to quality local health care for the all residents living in the local government areas of Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee.

#### **For media interviews contact**

Rim Daghmash  
Media, Marketing and Communications  
Officer  
T: 0437 164 636

#### **[www.swsphn.com.au](http://www.swsphn.com.au)**

Head Office: Level 3, 1 Bolger Street  
Campbelltown NSW 2560  
PO Box 5919 Minto DC NSW 2566  
T: 4632 3000 F: 4625 9466