

Media Release

Monday, 16 February 2026

Join a Local Health Forum focusing on supporting children's health needs

For some families, accessing the right health services can be difficult, especially during early childhood and primary school years.

If a child needs extra care for their health, development or behaviour, difficult to access or poorly coordinated services can cause delays, stress and missed opportunities for early support.

South Western Sydney PHN (SWSPHN) is holding a series of Local Health Forums which will look at barriers and enablers to accessing timely, appropriate and coordinated care for children aged 0 to 12.

Have you experienced difficulty accessing healthcare suited to your child needs?

Join SWSPHN at a forum at either Bass Hill, Campbelltown or Bowral, and help improve how health services for children are planned and delivered across South Western Sydney.

Parents and carers, and a range of healthcare professionals, service providers and community members, are invited to come together to share experiences, identify gaps and contribute insights which can inform future planning and coordination of childhood health services across the region.

The forums will discuss topics including:

- child development, behaviour and developmental milestones
- physical health and prevention, including immunisation
- ongoing health needs such as asthma
- healthy growth, nutrition and childhood obesity

The forums are designed to explore access to health and primary care services for children aged up to 12 years. While families may raise experiences across different systems (eg the NDIS), discussion will focus on areas where local health services can make practical improvements.

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This activity is supported by funding from the Australian Government through the PHN program.

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 healthcare for all residents living in the Bankstown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee LGAs. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, water and skies of South Western Sydney, the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra peoples, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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SWSPHN Acting Chief Executive Officer Amy Prince said feedback from earlier consultations, including health forums delving into the region's mental health services, highlighted the challenges parents and carers faced when accessing specialised and/or coordinated healthcare for their children.

"The early years of a child's life helps shape the rest of their life," she said. "Therefore, it's vital that early intervention and support is accessible right from the beginning of their life.

"We need the help of those with lived experience of these challenges to share with us the barriers they've faced when accessing care, and to work with us on solutions to give our children the best possible start in life, setting them up for healthier, more positive outcomes across their whole life."

Local Health Forums will be held across South Western Sydney for:

People who live or work in Bankstown, Fairfield or Liverpool

Date: Thursday, 26 March

Time: 6.30pm arrival for 7pm start, to 9pm

Venue: Rydges Bankstown, Hume Highway, Bass Hill

[Register here](#)

People who live or work in Campbelltown or Camden

Date: Thursday, 16 April

Time: 6.30pm arrival for 7pm start, to 9pm

Venue: Rydges Campbelltown, 15 Old Menangle Road, Campbelltown

[Register here](#)

People who live or work in the Southern Highlands or Wollondilly

Date: Thursday, 23 April

Time: 6.30pm arrival for 7pm start, to 9pm

Venue: Park Proxi Gibraltar, 7 Boronia Street, Bowral

[Register here](#)

Local Health Forums are held twice a year and focus on health topics important to people living in our community. Past forums have focused on topics including improving pregnancy care, mental health, primary care workforce need and end-of-life planning.

Local Health Forums are free and a complimentary two-course meal will be provided on the night.

An online survey is also available for people who would like to contribute but cannot attend.

[Take our survey](#)

Find more information: [Local Health Forum: Supporting your child's access to health](#)

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