

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Doctors in Secondary Schools Program begins in Kangaroo Flat and Wedderburn

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Students at Crusoe Secondary College in Kangaroo Flat and Wedderburn College in Wedderburn will now have access to a general practitioner at school, with the Victorian Government's Doctors in Secondary Schools pilot program starting on their campuses this week.

Murray PHN has partnered with the Department of Education and Training to deliver adolescent health trained GPs to 22 secondary schools in the region, to assist young people to get the health and wellbeing support they need.

The program is aimed at making primary health care more accessible to students, provide assistance to young people so they can identify and address health problems early, and reduce pressure on working parents and community-based GPs.

Murray PHN CEO, Matt Jones, said the doctors will attend the schools up to one day a week to provide medical advice and health care to students who might not have the same access to doctors as others.

"It's important for everyone to be able to communicate and build strong relationships with their local GP. This initiative means students will be able to build that relationship from a young age, particularly in rural, regional and disadvantaged areas," Mr Jones said.

GP Jo Dennis from Bendigo Community Health Services will visit Wedderburn College on Tuesdays and Crusoe College on Thursdays, operating out of purpose-built consultation areas provided by the Department of Education.

Dr Dennis said the program was a great opportunity to provide students with the care they need.

"These students might not otherwise have access to healthcare," she said. "This program is accessible, convenient and available at no cost to families."

Crusoe Secondary College Principal, Brad Madden, said he was excited about the program beginning in his school.

"The Doctors in Secondary Schools program will help students access the services they need without interrupting their school day or learning," he said.

#### Contact details

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