

DOCTORS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS



An Australian Government Initiative

Thursday 1 September, 2016.

Today Minister for Education, James Merlino announced the secondary schools which are taking part in the \$43.8 million GP's in schools initiative.

Murray PHN Chief Executive Officer Matt Jones said *"We are excited at the opportunity the 'Doctors in Secondary Schools' program presents to integrate healthcare for young people into the primary care system"*.

The Victorian Labor Government aims to develop and implement a flexible model of primary care service provision, which includes direct health support, advice and treatment, for students within 100 secondary schools in disadvantaged postcodes across Victoria.

Twenty two of the 100 schools are located within the Murray PHN region that extends from Mildura to Woodend and from Seymour to Albury/Wodonga.

The objectives of the program are to:

- make primary health care more accessible to students
- provide assistance to young people to identify and address any health problems early
- aim to reduce the pressure on working parents and community-based GPs.

"The GPs in Schools program will help improve the access to primary health care for young people in need in Victoria". Mr Jones said.

"It's important for everyone 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, and rural regional, and disadvantaged areas won't miss out." he said.

Participating schools will partner with local doctors who will visit for up to one day a week.

"Murray PHN is looking forward to partnering with the Victorian Government, Department of Education and Training, to deliver adolescent health trained GPs to 22 secondary schools in our region. The program will help to assist young people in getting the health and wellbeing support they need". He said.

It is anticipated that 20 Victorian Government secondary schools will be ready to deliver GP services on their school premises from Term 1, 2017. A further 40 will roll out from Term 3, 2017 with the remaining 40 secondary schools to be delivered from Term 1, 2018.

The program will make a valuable contribution to achieving the education state targets of 'happy, healthy and resilient kids' by improving ease of access to health services for young people.

Successful secondary schools:

Central Victoria
Crusoe 7-10 Secondary College
Eaglehawk Secondary College
Kerang Technical High School
Kyneton Secondary College
Maryborough Education Centre
Wedderburn College
Weeroona College Bendigo
Goulburn Valley
Alexandra Secondary College
Numurkah Secondary College
Seymour College
Shepparton High School
Yarrawonga College P-12
North East Victoria
Benalla P-12 College – Barkley Street Campus
Rutherglen High School
Wodonga Middle Years College – Huon Campus
Wodonga Senior Secondary College
North West Victoria
Irymple Secondary College
Merbein P-10 College
Ouyen P-12 College
Red Cliffs Secondary College
Robinvale College (interim name)
Swan Hill College

Contact details

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