

FEEL GOOD LOOK GOOD



Myrtle Street Clinic accreditation

ALEXANDRA increased its community health credentials when Myrtle Street Clinic received a national award of accreditation, demonstrating its commitment to quality and safety within its practice.

Myrtle Street Clinic received this important recognition from Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited (AGPAL), the leading not-for-profit provider of general practice accreditation services within Australia.

AGPAL Chair Dr Richard Choong said accreditation shows the practice makes a significant investment and commitment to quality on a day-to-day basis, across all levels of the practice team.

“Achieving accreditation is a major achievement for any practice and a clear demonstration that Myrtle Street Clinic is striving to improve their level of care to both patients and the community,” he said.

“Practices seek accreditation because they want to do their best and view this as another step towards excellence in patient care.”

To achieve accreditation, a practice team works over a 12 month period to implement the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for general practices, the recognised national standard for general practices, that provides a template for quality care and risk management.

The AGPAL accreditation program was developed to provide a range of minimum expectations for patients surrounding safety and care by assessing the practice environment and their processes. Accreditation was developed jointly by AGPAL and primary health organisations and peak bodies, including the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

Areas of focus during an on-site assessment for accreditation include: ensuring vaccines are within their use-by-date and stored at the correct temperatures, that the practice equipment is clean and sterile, practice staff are up-to-date with their training, and the practice has emergency care available.

Dr Choong said accreditation is attainable only through cooperation and communication between staff members.

“Everyone at the practice plays a valuable role in working to meet the RACGP Standards. It gives staff a real sense of pride to work in an accredited practice,” added Dr Choong.

Myrtle Street Clinic proudly displays the AGPAL Accredited Symbol for all their patients to see.

“We want community members, nationwide to know that their wellbeing is our priority. By choosing to attend an accredited practice, patients know they will get quality and safe care that meets the RACGP Standards.”

Myrtle Street Clinic is located at 33 Myrtle Street, Alexandra. They can be contacted on 5772 1699 or email reception@mscgp.com.au



Looking forward: Chris McDonnell (Seymour Health), Sue Race (Kilmore and District Hospital), Gordon Ross (GV Health), Cr Sandice McAulay (Murrindindi Shire), Cr Charlotte Bisset (Murrindindi Shire), Suzanne Miller (Nexus) at the launch.

Regional health services unite for home care

IN what is believed to be an Australian first, health services from across the region have united for the sustainability of locally governed home care for senior members of their communities.

To date, 18 health services from northern and central Victoria and southern New South Wales have joined the consortium, collectively branded Community Interlink.

The consortium was launched on Thursday, April 12 at an event in Kilmore attended by representatives of Murrindindi Shire Council and the various health services involved.

Approximately 300 home care clients are now supported by the consortium with care coordinated by staff employed at the various health services.

Following 2015 Commonwealth Home Care funding reforms, resulting in a new open marketplace for home care providers, many smaller health services would find it challenging to continue providing home care.

A consortium arrangement between the health services, would guarantee each member’s ability to continue providing home care to their communities.

Yea and District Memorial Hospital Director of Nursing Lorina Gray said the consortium arrangement ensures that members of our community will always have access to locally governed home care and such a provision will foster optimal health outcomes for seniors wanting to remain in their own home.

“Basically we wanted to ensure that senior members of our communities would always have access to Home Care services from a locally governed provider,” Community Interlink Governance Group member, Gordon Ross said.

“Local providers are those that can offer the highest level of support having local staff, with local knowledge and networks.”

Nexus Primary Health CEO and Community Interlink Governance Group Chair Suzanne Miller said the primary goal of the consortium is to build on a shared philosophy and commitment to supporting local communities via local health services.

“The consortium works toward building the capacity of member agencies to deliver direct care and coordinated care from their own employed staff, and to open up new contracting opportunities and consolidate existing revenue streams, promoting joint working and encouraging organizational learning and development.”

Community Interlink members include Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Alexandra District Hospital, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Gateway Health, Euroa Health, Benalla Health, Seymour Health, Mansfield District Hospital, GV Health, Nexus Primary Health and Kilmore and District Hospital.

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