

Swan Hill Primary Health Medical Centre Celebrates their 2nd Anniversary

GEMMA ROWLEY

SWAN Hill Primary Health Medical Centre (PHMC) celebrated their second anniversary on Wednesday to recognise their efforts and growth since opening in 2016.

Starting with two doctors, one practice nurse and two administration staff, the clinic now has 18 staff members and only continues to grow.

Dr Ernan Hession, who practices at PHMC, is grateful for the community embracing the clinic.

"We always want to provide the best services we can for our community, so it's great to see such a good response for our growing clinic," Dr Hession said.

"As part of this growth, PHMC continuously host eight 4th Year Monash University students for a six month placement in a rural community – this placement is keenly sort after by the students due to the diversity of practice and great community support"

"Our aim is to provide an opportunity for medical students to have the country GP experience with the hope that they will factor into their future employment", Dr Hession said.

With patients often having to travel long distances to either Bendigo or Melbourne to see certain specialists, PHMC have recognised this as a serious issue in rural areas and aim to provide wider specialist services.

"Sub regional health services like Swan Hill need to provide multi skilled health professionals such as Procedural GP's, allied health, specialist nurses and paramedics".

"We're really pushing to train medical staff as GP generalists that can do diverse roles," Dr Hession said.

Currently, PHMC has been using tele health services, whereby a patient along with their GP and/or nurse communicate with a particular medical specialist via video conference. This saves patients the costs involved with travel and high private clinic fees.

Dr Hession said with Swan Hill also catering to many surrounding towns, the service needed to continue listening to what was required by the community and have the right services available.

Proud of their current achievements, Dr Hession hopes PHMC's work will be a template for other regions.

"The success has happened by moving forward all the time with new ideas."

With a thriving list of programs and services available at the clinic, PHMC are wanting the community to be fully aware of what's on offer.

With other exciting opportunities to be announced in the near future, Dr Hession also revealed a PHMC plan to get more young people involved in health care.

We will be starting a school engagement program for Year 11 & 12's to get high school students more familiar with the opportunities regional health has to offer," he said.

"It's a matter of having the right training and the right doctors in the right place," Dr Hession said.

The Board of Directors and Ted Rayment, CEO congratulates the PHMC on the success of their medical centre. The Building has reached capacity and plans are underway for expansion to accommodate the increased demand for services.



Dr Ernan Hession all smiles at Swan Hill Primary Health Medical Centre's second birthday on Wednesday. **Pictures: GEMMA ROWLEY**



Practice nurses celebrate at Swan Hill Primary Health Medical Centre.



Swan Hill Primary Health Medical Centre administration staff, Anne Wattie, Carolyn Duffy, Michelle Barry and Polly Tierney.

Services & Programs

- Monash University 4th Year medical student program (6 monthly rotations of 8 Monash University Rural Cohort medical students)
- Graduate Practice Nurse training
- Midwife led Antenatal clinics – Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons
- Stress echocardiograms – Monday fortnightly
- Stress testing – Monday fortnightly
- Tele-oncology clinics in association with the hospital chemotherapy unit.
- Tele-fracture clinic in association with Bendigo Health – Wednesday weekly
- Tele-geriatrician (Geri-connect) service in association with Bendigo health avoiding the need to transport the elderly to Bendigo for assessment.
- GP's in schools program – providing a GP & Practice Nurse on a weekly basis
- Weekly Obstetrician and Gynaecologist clinics – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings

- Visiting Vascular Surgeon
- Visiting Orthopaedic surgeon - Monthly
- Visiting Geriatrician
- Visiting Paediatrician - Monthly
- Weekend clinics – Saturday 8-11am, Sunday 9-11am, Public Holidays 9-11am
- After hours Women's health clinics
- Men's clinic (In the planning stages)
- Skin checks – Thursdays weekly
- Mental Health Care co-ordination program
- Drug and Alcohol Counselling – Fortnightly
- Monthly Saturday visits to Moulamein Health Centre will commence on the 30th June at 1 pm

31 High Street, Swan Hill | Phone: (03) 5033 9900

Hours: Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm

Saturday: 8am - 11am

Sunday: 9am - 11am

For appointments telephone (03) 5033 9900

PHMC Accomplishments 2nd Anniversary

20/6/2016

2 Doctors

1 Practice Nurse

2 Administration staff

20/6/2018

9 Doctors

(4 GP's, 3 FRACGP Registrars & 2 ACRRM Registrars)

2 Practice Nurses

5 Administration staff

1 Mental Health Nurse

1 Diabetic Educator