

ABOUT GPCC

The General Practice Clinical Council (GPCC) is one of two Clinical Councils that serves as an advisory body directly to the Wentworth Healthcare Board.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Name	Eligible	Attended
Dr Louise McDonnell (Chair)	5	5
Dr Jialiang Chin (Blue Mountains)	5	4
Dr Simone Heiler (Blue Mountains)	5	1 (leave)
Dr Kamal Singh (Blue Mountains)	2	2
Dr David Foley (Hawkesbury)	5	5
Dr Roxanne Chenn (Hawkesbury)	2	2
Dr Alex Williams (Hawkesbury)	5	4
Dr Hilton Brown (Lithgow)	5	2
Dr Ben Hanson (Lithgow)	5	3
Dr Anju Aggarwal (Penrith)	5	4
Dr Thu Dang (Penrith)	5	4
Dr Hany Gayed (Penrith)	5	4

There were five GPCC meetings held during FY25. One of the meetings was a combined meeting with the Allied Health Clinical Council focused on multidisciplinary team care.

We warmly welcomed Dr Kamal Singh and Dr Roxanne Chenn as new members during FY24-25 to replace members who had resigned.

KEY MATTERS CONSIDERED FY25

Major items of discussion and consultation included:

- **Homelessness Access Program** – including service implementation and GP education needs.
- **Single Employer Model** consultation.
- **Disaster and Emergency Management** discussion of the need for planning for GPs, their Practice, Allied Health and their Practices, the community and vulnerable patients.
- **Health Pathways** – including GP education needs for the implementation of individual logins.
- **Advocacy during the election cycle** some priorities include obesity, Drug and Alcohol services, Speech pathology outreach programs, GP liaison role.
- **Residential Aged Care Homes** – workforce issues and their potential current and future impacts.
- **Upper Blue Mountains GP Workforce** – recognition of the workforce challenges. Discussion included registrar retention, PHN Registrar teaching days, Attracting experienced Fellowed GPs to the area, recruitment drive, bulk billing and fee for service models of payment.

- **PHN Resources** – GP Flipbook including all PHN services developed feedback sought on the resource and models of dissemination.
- **Combined Clinical Council event** – this event in December 2025 brought together GPs and Allied Health practitioners to discuss Disaster and Emergency Management. This meeting identified barriers and enablers and has informed our work in this space during 2025.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FY25

GPCC will continue to identify and discuss areas of importance to GPs in the region to identify program opportunities and areas for advocacy. We anticipate a continued focus on GP Workforce, GPs and registrars working in Residential Aged Care. Additionally, rolling out changes in diagnosing and prescribing for ADHD, My Medicare and advice on implementation of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

COMMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Dr Louise McDonnell

My role as chair of the GP Clinical Council (GPCC) this year has been interesting and productive. We continue to provide valuable and insightful feedback to the PHN Executive and the Wentworth Healthcare Board on issues that affect General Practice.

We have had productive discussions around workforce issues including suggestions for recruitment of GPs and Registrars to our area. Aged care continues to be a particularly challenging area regarding workforce, with a small number of GPs visiting the majority of RACHs. We have advised the PHN on ways to support these GPs and strategies to recruit new GPs into aged care.

I warmly welcome two new GPCC members, Dr Kamal Singh representing the Blue Mountains LGA and Dr Roxanne Chenn representing Hawkesbury LGA.

I would like to thank all the GPCC members for their commitment and their valuable input to these meetings. Finally, thank you to the fantastic team at the PHN who provided incredible support for this role.
