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## Is your Doctor Closed this Easter? Avoid a Trip to the Emergency Department...

Wentworth Healthcare, the provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, is reminding the community that the hospital is not the only option when your doctor is closed over the upcoming Easter and Anzac Day public holidays.

Wentworth Healthcare CEO, Lizz Reay, said that after hours or urgent care services offer an important alternative to the emergency department for urgent, but not life-threatening, injuries or illnesses, and in cases where your regular GP may not be open.

"If you or your family needs medical assistance over the upcoming public holidays, there are a range of options available. Our **DoctorClosed.com.au** website can help local residents to search for a GP who is open after hours, for doctors who can make home visits or for your closest Urgent Care services. You can also use the online symptom checker, find pharmacies that are open, or talk to a health professional 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling the *healthdirect* helpline on **1800 022 222**," said Ms Reay.

Ms Reay added that the Doctor Closed website is accessible for multicultural communities, with translated pages in six different languages.

In addition, Wentworth Healthcare fund **Lithgow Medical Clinic**, located at 11 Bridge Street, to stay open over weekends and some public holidays. The Clinic is open Easter Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm, Easter Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm, Easter Monday 9:00am-1:00pm and Anzac Day 9:00am-1:00pm. It will be closed on Good Friday.

"We are proud to support these after hours services in our region, offering our community alternative options to going to a hospital, especially during long weekends and public holidays when wait times can be long and emergency departments are often under additional pressure."

"I encourage everyone to visit **DoctorClosed.com.au** to find out what other local healthcare options are available," Ms Reay concluded.

In an emergency always call 000. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. For those seeking urgent mental health care, you can also call the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511, which is available 24/7 including public holidays.