

## Media Statement – Addiction Support for Penrith & Hawkesbury

Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, welcomes the announcement made by the Federal Government that Western Sydney will receive a \$19.5 million Community Health and Well-being funding package.

Lizz Reay, CEO of Wentworth Healthcare said, “We are absolutely thrilled by this package that will help support the health and well-being of the people in Western Sydney. We know that the right care in the right place at the right time is the cornerstone of a strong health system.”

“With resources, these community-based services will support people with mental health and addiction issues within their own community where their friends, family and primary healthcare providers can all be part of their integrated care journey. This gives people the best chance of recovery and can also alleviate unnecessary hospital admissions,” she said.

The package specifically sets aside \$5.5 million for community-based addiction support services in Penrith and the Hawkesbury.

“When it comes to supporting people with addiction, residential rehabilitation services are important but aren’t always suitable in every situation. For some, residential programs can even act as a barrier to seeking help. That is why community-based addiction support is so important. People with addiction need to be able to seek support and get well within their own community, ” Ms Reay said.

Wentworth Healthcare’s GP Clinical Lead Integrated Care, Dr Michael Crampton said, “GPs in our region have identified the need for more integrated support services for their patients with addiction issues.”

“These patients often have complex needs with dual diagnosis of mental health issues in addition. GPs are best equipped to manage the continuum of care that is needed in partnership with community-based care services. Together they will help build capacity and effectively integrate patient care,” he said.

**The Nepean Blue Mountains PHN is a program run by  
Wentworth Healthcare – a not for profit organisation which  
works to improve health for the communities of Blue Mountains,  
Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Penrith.**

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