

Media Statement – headspace for Katoomba and Hawkesbury under Labor

Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, welcomes the announcement made today by Senator Deborah O’Neill, Assistant Shadow Minister for Mental Health, and Susan Templeman, Member for Macquarie, that Labor will fund a new headspace Centre in Katoomba and an outreach service in the Hawkesbury if elected into Government.

Lizz Reay, CEO of Wentworth Healthcare said, “We are passionate about improving the mental health of our local communities and are thrilled that both Katoomba and Hawkesbury will receive funding for headspace services to help address youth anxiety and depression, if Labor is elected.”

“Together with the community we have been advocating for additional youth mental health services in our region for some time, particularly for the Hawkesbury, and we are pleased that our local member has listened to these concerns and taken action,” she said.

“We know that mental health and suicide are complex issues that are influenced by a number of interacting psychological, social and cultural factors. Early intervention programs such as headspace are critical as they not only impact young people’s lives in the present but can influence the whole community as these young people mature into adulthood,” said Ms Reay.

Relevant Statistics:

Using the National Mental Health Services Planning Framework tool, it is estimated that this year 28% of children and young people aged 5-17 years living in the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury are at risk of, or are affected by mental illness. Of these, 66% are estimated to require an individually tailored mental health service response.

**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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