

## Media Statement - New headspace for Katoomba

Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, welcomes the announcement made today by the Hon Marise Payne, Senator for Western Sydney, and Sarah Richards, Liberal candidate for the seat of Macquarie, that the Federal Government will fund of a new headspace service in Katoomba.

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

“Together with the community we have been advocating for additional youth mental health services in our region for some time and we are pleased that the Federal Government 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.

Wentworth Healthcare’s Executive Manager, Elisa Manley and GP Clinical Lead Integrated Care, Dr Michael Crampton attended today’s announcement.

Dr Michael Crampton welcomed the announcement saying, “headspace is a service that helps to normalise the mental health concerns that young people may have, and promotes seeking appropriate and timely mental health care.”

“From a GP perspective, the integration of a patient’s healthcare is very important and having this additional service in the area will help GPs and other primary health providers work together, build capacity and effectively coordinate care within the youth mental health space,” he said.

### 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 are at risk of, or are affected by mental illness. Of these, only 15% are estimated to have a diagnosed mental illness.*

**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.**

**This service has been made possible through funding provided by the Australian  
Government under the PHN Program.**

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