

MEDIA RELEASE

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Kids' respiratory clinic in North Melbourne can ease demand at Royal Children's Hospital emergency department

Parents should consider taking their unwell children to the [GP-led respiratory clinic \(GPRC\) for kids in North Melbourne](#) instead of the Emergency Department at the nearby Royal Children's Hospital.

That's the message from clinic operator cohealth and North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN).

The clinic – at 505 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne – opened in September 2022 and is geared to treating children (and parents or carers, if needed) with respiratory symptoms and illnesses, including COVID-19.

The service is free and no Medicare Card is required.

“We know the RCH emergency room is under great pressure at the moment, and this clinic is a great way to connect kids with respiratory symptoms to doctors and nurses,” said cohealth Chief Executive, Nicole Bartholomeusz.

“By coming here, parents and children will be treated quickly – and we can help reduce the demand at the hospital.”

The clinic is open 5pm – 10pm on weekdays, and 10am – 6pm on weekends, and cohealth says the opening hours are designed to meet the need for after-hours treatment.

Funded by the Department of Health and NWMPHN, the clinic was established to provide a new tier for treatment for unwell children.

“The GPRC is an excellent alternative for prompt treatment for respiratory diseases and parents can take their children there instead of the Royal Children's Hospital,” NWMPHN Chief Executive Christopher Carter said.

“The clinic and the hospital are in constant contact with each other, so parents can rest assured that their young ones will receive the best possible treatment.”

To access cohealth's paediatric GP respiratory clinic:

- The service is located at 505 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne
- Phone 0486 008 315 to make an appointment
- Or book online via HotDocs: <https://www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/north-melbourne-VIC-3051/children-gprc-north-melbourne/doctors>
- Walk-ins are also available if capacity allows.

For more information:

- Lanie Harris 0418 552 377 lanie.harris@cohealth.org.au
- Andrew Masterson 0488 777 179 andrew.masterson@nwmphn.org.au

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More on cohealth:

cohealth is one of Australia's largest not-for-profit community health organisation that strives to improve health and wellbeing for all. cohealth provides universal access to services as well as targeted programs and assertive models to address the health disparities experienced by disadvantaged groups. cohealth offers a broad range of high quality, integrated health and support services, including medical, oral, pharmacy, mental health and drug and alcohol services.

More on North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network

North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) is part of a nation-wide group of Primary Health Networks (PHNs).

Each PHN aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health services for patients – particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes – and to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place, at the right time.



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ABOUT PHNs

Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health, PHNs began operation on 1 July 2015 and are responsible for coordinating primary health care and facilitating improved health outcomes in their local community. Melbourne Primary Care Network operates the North Western Melbourne PHN.

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We acknowledge the peoples of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our work in the community takes place. We pay our respects to their Elders past and



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