

## MEDIA RELEASE

13 April 2023

### **Baw Baw PPCC relocates to larger premises as patient numbers grow**

The Baw Baw Priority Primary Care Centre (PPCC) is seeing an increase in patients as the community becomes aware of the new service.

The PPCC has relocated to larger premises nearby to provide consumers with better access to pathology and pharmacy as part of their overall care.

Operated by Central Clinic to support West Gippsland Healthcare Group, the Baw Baw PPCC is now part of the main clinic at 170 Normanby Street in Warragul.

The PPCC was set up by the Victorian Government, in partnership from Primary Health Networks, to ease the pressure on hospital emergency departments by seeing urgent care, non-emergency, patients at no cost.

Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, said since opening on 3 January 2023, the Baw Baw PPCC had seen patient numbers growing each week.

“The PPCC is a great example of health services working together to support the local community,” Ms Proposch said.

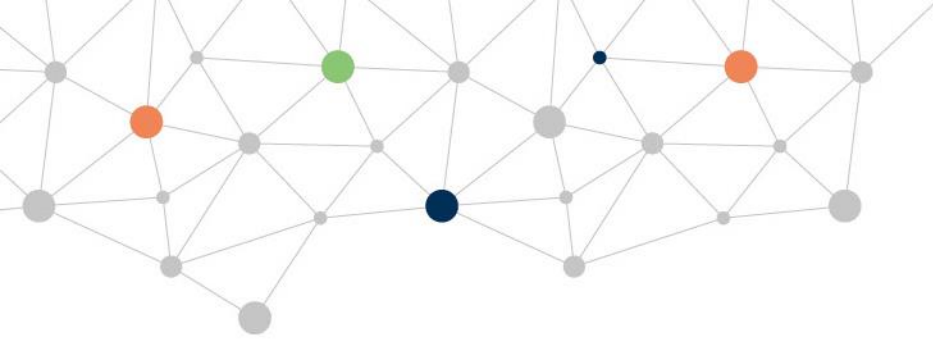
Director of Clinical Operations at West Gippsland Healthcare Group, Trish O’Kelly, said the benefit for West Gippsland Hospital’s Emergency Department was staff could provide more timely care to emergency presentations.

“Staff tell me there is a nice sense of calmness in the department and as a leading health service, it is another piece in the puzzle for us to provide an excellent service for the community while at the same time, alleviating pressure on our staff at the hospital,” Ms O’Kelly said.

Central Clinic Practice Principal, Dr Kethees Ketheeswaran, gave Ms Proposch, Ms O’Kelly and WGHG Deputy Director of Clinical Operations, Jacqui Meyers, a tour of the relocated facility.

The PPCC has a GP consulting room, a large operational area and easy access for ambulances. It now also has access to onsite pathology and pharmacy services.

The centre accepts bookings and walk-ins, with doctors and nurses on site to treat a range of conditions like mild infections, fractures and burns.



“This initiative is a great example of collaboration to provide increased access to urgent care services for the community and at the same time, help reduce the enormous pressure on our emergency departments,” Ms Proposch said.

If you need urgent care and it’s not an emergency, the Baw Baw PPCC at 170 Normanby Street is open from 8am to midnight, seven days a week. Bookings are via phone: [\(03\) 5642 6655](tel:0356426655) or [online](#) at [www.centralclinic.com.au](http://www.centralclinic.com.au)

**Caption:**

***Warragul GP Dr Kethees Ketheeswaran (right) gives (from left) WGHG Deputy Director of Clinical Operations, Jacqui Meyers, WGHG Director of Clinical Operations, Trish O’Kelly and Gippsland PHN Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, a tour of the Baw Baw PPCC.***

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