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WentWest Limited

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MEDIA RELEASE

New Neighbourhood Health Hub Opens in Western Sydney

WentWest and Blacktown City Council are pleased to announce the opening of **Healthicare**, a new Neighbourhood Health Hub.

Healthicare is located in the new \$100-million Blacktown Exercise Sport and Technology Hub (BEST) in the Blacktown International Sports Park (BISP), the venue for the Sydney 2000 Olympics softball and baseball competitions.

Healthicare is a not-for-profit organisation taking an innovative approach to building a healthier community through the delivery of integrated primary care services. The hub uses a collaborative neighbourhood-based model of care and new digital technologies to support improved health and social outcomes for the most vulnerable families.

Healthicare is a new approach to primary care provision with links to social, education, disability, housing and other services. The hub provides health care providers and their patients with access to a multidisciplinary team, such as general practitioners, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, allied health, such as social workers and psychologists, as well as pharmacists and patient advocates.

Ray Messom, CEO of WentWest stated, “**Healthicare** aims to remove the barriers for people to access high-quality, integrated, health and social care services. We know that this joined-up approach is desperately needed in and around Mount Druitt. This new hub will directly support up to 8,000 families a year but will also support surrounding general practices and work closely with local primary care providers to make a difference for the neighbourhood population of more than 100,000 people. By increasing the health and wellbeing of the community at a population level, we hope to reduce the impact on hospitals and acute services and improve the experience of how families receive care across the neighbourhood. We are planning for a healthy future.”

Blacktown City Mayor Tony Bleasdale said; “BEST is a \$100-million investment in the health and future of the communities of Blacktown City and Western Sydney.

“BEST provides state-of-the-art facilities for training, sports medicine, rehabilitation, research and education, as well as providing accommodation, a large café-restaurant and an innovative fun play space for kids of all ages and abilities.

“WentWest is a major partner in BEST, and **Healthicare** aligns perfectly with Council’s aim of providing world-class health care and recovery facilities for all the community.”

Healthicare Clinic Director, Dr Jaspreet Saini, stated, “As someone who’s lived in Blacktown for more than 30 years, I understand the struggles we face in dealing with the health care system. That’s why I’m thrilled about **Healthicare**, our new health care initiative right here in Western Sydney. It’s not just about doctors and treatments; our collaborative neighbourhood-based model of care and cutting-edge digital technologies enable us to provide whole-person care that addresses the diverse needs and aspirations of our community. It’s a heartfelt initiative led by a team intimately connected to the fabric of Western Sydney - individuals who have walked its streets and shared its stories for decades. We are fuelled by excitement, ready to stand hand in hand with other health care providers, forging a collaborative journey towards a healthier and brighter future for everyone.”

“Having worked as a GP in Western Sydney for over 28 years, I’ve seen the increasing need for patient-centred, multi-agency, team-care approaches to health. With one of the most diverse populations in NSW and some of the lowest socio-economic areas, we have a duty as health professionals to ensure that we are providing our community with access to holistic and effective health care,” stated Dr Kean-Seng Lim, MDMPA President.

“**Healthicare** is the general practice of the future, not just for its patients, but also for the opportunities it presents to the primary care workforce, and Mt Druitt Medical Practitioners Association is proud to be part of this journey “

By partnering with MDMPA, Blacktown City Council, community organisations, local schools, and BEST partners, **Healthicare** and WentWest are providing connections to community, and bringing health, wellbeing and opportunities to BEST and the Western Sydney region.

For more information, visit healthicare.org.au