



## MEDIA RELEASE

24 August 2016

### **Western Sydney welcomes national *Health Care Homes* announcement**

Today WentWest, the Western Sydney Primary Health Network welcomed news from the Commonwealth that western Sydney had been selected as one of ten regions across Australia to participate in the national *Health Care Homes* Stage 1 rollout.

For western Sydney health care consumers and professionals this is an unprecedented opportunity to redefine primary care and influence system enhancement.

*Health Care Homes* will see the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) work in collaboration with targeted local practices to trial and transform the traditional primary care model through the Commonwealth framework.

WentWest CEO, Walter Kmet said of the announcement: "We are delighted by this opportunity for western Sydney and are excited to be leading this first stage together with our community and the health professionals who care for them."

As part of *Health Care Homes*, Mr Kmet and local GP, Dr Kean Seng Lim of Mount Druitt Medical Centre have both been appointed to two key national committees advising Government on the implementation and also comes as the organisation launches its *Business and Clinical Program* course this weekend, developing principal GPs and business owners so that they can enhance service delivery within practices.

The *Health Care Homes* announcement follows an ongoing and region-wide commitment from WentWest and local GPs to implement international best practice Patient Centred Medical Home principles. "The *Health Care Homes* announcement complements much of the work we are currently doing to transform primary care within western Sydney. Together with local GPs and our partners we are working toward a more coordinated health system which seeks to enhance patient care, improve health outcomes, increase effectiveness and efficiency of services and improve provider satisfaction."

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**About WentWest**

WentWest's focus on providing better health care in the community was strengthened with its appointment as a Tranche 1 Medicare Local in July 2011 to now operating as the Western Sydney Primary Health Network. WentWest has built on its experience as a Division of General Practice in supporting GPs and their practices, connecting health services to meet local needs, and striving for better health outcomes for western Sydney.

The population living in western Sydney is culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse, and we also have the largest urban Aboriginal community in Australia. WentWest works closely with doctors, allied health professionals, the Local Health District and many others to improve the coordination of local health and human services for these patients and their families.