

MEDIA RELEASE

13th July 2017

Tempering western Sydney's diabetes hotspot

Western Sydney is considered to be a diabetes “hot-spot” with more than one quarter of the population (aprx 200,000 people) likely to have diabetes or pre-diabetes.

With Diabetes Awareness Week, (9th-15th July) drawing the spotlight to one of Australia's rising and preventable health conditions, Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) takes the opportunity to highlight the work currently taking place across the region to combat the condition.

As part of the Western Sydney Diabetes Prevention and Management initiative WSPHN has, in partnership with Western Sydney Local Health District, implemented a number of initiatives to combat this problem.

Among the initiatives currently in action is a [Case Conferencing](#) program, supporting local GPs in the management of diabetic patients. In its fourth year of operation the program continues to see tangible results, with over 150 GPs involved, a total of 1200 patients have been consulted across 60 general practices. The role of primary care nurses in diabetes management has also been brought into focus through an ongoing education series offering extended training to enhance the support of GPs in the ongoing management of their patients, [click here](#) to find out more information.

More broadly, WentWest is working closely with the community to build greater awareness and management of the condition. Initiatives such as the Western Sydney Diabetes Support Group, [Rouse Hill Diabetes Education service](#) and [Diabetes Prevention & Management program](#) form part of a multi-pronged strategy seeking to encourage greater consumer engagement, understanding and self-management of the condition.

To find out more about how western Sydney is combating diabetes, download a copy of the [Western Sydney Diabetes Prevention & Management Initiative](#) – a comprehensive, multilayered approach between WSPHN and its partners the Western Sydney Local Health District.

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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 Western Sydney Local Health District and many others to improve the coordination of local health services for patients and their families.