

WESTERN SYDNEY'S RAPID RESPONSE – GP-LED COVID-19 RESPIRATORY CLINIC OPENS IN CASTLE HILL

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Western Sydney's third GP-led Respiratory Clinic has opened in Castle Hill, through close collaboration between the Department of Health, WentWest, the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN), and Castle Hill Medical Centre (CHMC).

Built from scratch and located within the Castle Mall shopping centre, this newly established clinic is one of 100 being opened across the country as part of the Federal Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Patients will be able to receive an assessment, testing, and diagnosis when presenting moderate respiratory symptoms such as a fever, sore throat, coughing, tiredness or shortness of breath.

Ian Lowe, CHMC's CEO identified the importance of setting up a clinic to provide ease of access to COVID-19 testing in Castle Hill:

"We're very pleased to be in a position to construct this clinic to serve our community. The support of WentWest played a vital part in the establishment of the site and the ability to offer respiratory assessments to the wider Hills residents. The staff at Castle Hill Medical Centre and our contractors have built the clinic from scratch, in a matter of three weeks, and we're thrilled to be able to offer a well-resourced space that ensures safety for both staff and patients."

WentWest CEO, Ray Messom has acknowledged the need of such a clinic in Castle Hill, to reduce pressure on local general practice and hospital COVID-19 testing services and emergency departments, while providing patients with the opportunity to receive greater access to assessment and testing to continue to flatten the curve.

"This is another fantastic example of Western Sydney's primary health care sector identifying a need and working closely with us to offer COVID-19 assessment and testing to our community in record time. Ian and his team answered the call and have worked tirelessly to roll out a one-of-a-kind GP-led Respiratory Clinic. The dedication and innovation our health care workers are delivering during this challenging time is inspiring and I am thrilled WentWest could assist them to look after our community."

The clinic will offer testing for COVID-19, when clinically indicated, and results will be provided to patients through phone, SMS, or other forms of communication. Patients will then be referred to their GP for ongoing treatment, in which case, results can also be provided to their GP by the clinic for further assessments.



WentWest would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We value their culture, identity, and continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community. We would like to acknowledge and give our respect to Elders past, present and future. We are committed to making a valued contribution to the wellbeing of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon. Alex Hawke MP has hailed the clinic as a crucial and alternative support for patients who require immediate COVID-19 assessment and testing.

"This is great news for people in the Castle Hill region as we want as many people as possible who are suffering any of these symptoms to get tested", said Mr Hawke.

"It has been a huge amount of work for Castle Hill Medical Centre to establish this clinic. Their team have worked incredibly hard and I thank them for taking on this important service."

Julian Leeson MP also spoke about the importance of the clinic in servicing a wide geographic area.

"This clinic will service a large region, including people from the Berowra electorate. I encourage anyone with symptoms, to come to the clinic and to get free testing", said Mr Leeson.

Appointments are required for assessment and treatment at the clinic, with online bookings as the preferred method of securing an appointment. Patients do not require a referral, or to provide payment as these services are free of charge. Appointments can be made by visiting castlehillmedicalcentre.com.au or calling 9634 5000.

Castle Hill Respiratory Clinic is located at Level 1, Castle Mall, 4-16 Terminus Street, Castle Hill and is open between the hours of 8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information, visit wentwest.com.au/covid-19 to learn about WentWest's (WSPHN) COVID-19 response and details on all GP-led Respiratory Clinics in Western Sydney.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Name: Alison Rooke
Marketing, Communications & Events Manager
Phone: 02 8811 7135
Email: alison.rooke@wentwest.com.au

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