

Happy Holidays from WentWest

On behalf of the entire WentWest team I would like to convey our thanks to the many consumers, health care professionals and partners who have supported us over the past 12 months.

2018 has been a year of great growth and innovation across western Sydney's health sector and we continue to work in partnership to address the many health priorities and challenges we face. Our latest Annual Review: Values in Practice provides a greater insight into our many achievements across 2017/18. I encourage you to visit our website to read it now.

For the past five years, the WentWest team has used the festive season to give back to our community. This year we have continued the tradition by donating gifts and toys to local families through our annual Gift Drive. This week we presented these to the wonderful teams at Community Book Boxes in Doonside and Thriving Families, who will distribute to those most in need this Christmas. Our recent Staff Development Day also provided an opportunity for WentWest staff to come together to give back to local charity The W.A.S.H House (Women's Activities and Self Help House).

Next year is already shaping up to be a time of even greater engagement with primary care for WentWest. I was pleased to learn that the Health Care Homes trial is being extended until 30 June 2021 and will continue to implement changes to chronic disease management and patient centred care. In the New Year we will be calling for expressions of interest for three people from western Sydney primary care practices to participate in a primary care masterclass in the United States in June 2019. The masterclass will involve a structured tour of US west based primary care practice, exposing those attending to Patient Centred Medical Homes, practical learning sessions and mentoring. Please keep your eyes out for the EOI announcement in January.

On behalf of our Board, Management and Staff, I extend WentWest's great appreciation to all our stakeholders and look forward to seeing you in the New Year for what is sure to be an exciting and most importantly, healthy 2019.

A wonderful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Walter Kmet CEO, WentWest



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the WentWest team

Other News

Supporting The W.A.S.H House during the festive season

The W.A.S.H House is a community based resource centre for women. A place of support, information and referral. They offer a range of programs and activities for all women.

For this year's Staff Development Day WentWest was given the opportunity to complete a backpack challenge to donate essential items for women and children in need through The W.A.S.H House in Mount Druitt.

For more information about the work they do please visit their website.

Nurse Transition Program

Western Sydney Primary Health Network is partnering with Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) to offer nurses in western Sydney the opportunity to take part in the APNA's Transition to Practice Program.

If you are new to primary care and would like to take part as a transitioning nurse or an experienced nurse and would like to be a mentor please complete the Expression of Interest form. If you would like more information, please contact Rebekah Cox on 1300 303 184 or email rebekah.cox@apna.asn.au. Please note applications need to be completed in by Sunday 13 January 2019.

Health Care Homes Extension

The Minister for Health, Greg Hunt MP, has announced that the Health Care Homes trial is being extended and will continue until 30 June 2021.

A short question and answer document is attached for more detailed information about the extension.

Legislation strengthens My Health Record privacy

On 26 November, the Australian Parliament passed new laws to strengthen the privacy and security protections within My Health Record. These changes are in response to calls for even stronger privacy and security protections for people using My Health Record. These changes are summarised on the Australian Digital Health Agency's website.

A Provider Communication Pack will be posted to all General Practices shortly, updating them about the updated legislation and extension of the opt-out period by the Australian Digital Health Agency.