

## Doctors in Secondary Schools

### Summary

South Eastern Melbourne PHN (SEMPHN) is seeking to contract general practices with an interest in adolescent health to apply to deliver school-based services from Term 1 2017. The general practice will provide suitable General Practitioner/s and Nurses to deliver youth-friendly medical services, in partnership and collaboration with the participating school and staff.

### What is the Doctors in Secondary Schools initiative?

The Doctors in Secondary Schools initiative aims to provide school-based health services for 100 Victorian secondary schools most in need. The initiative will build modern clinical facilities onsite at schools and fund up to one day per week of a General Practitioner (GP) to provide both primary care for students and contribute to the school's existing student wellbeing programs to help increase health literacy and preventive health.

There is also an accompanying role for a Nurse from the selected general practice to work with the GP, particularly in care coordination. Clinics will open in the first 20 schools during Term 1 and Term 2, 2017. From Term 3, 2017, 40 more will open, with the final 40 starting from Term 1, 2018.

### The objectives of the initiative are to:

- make primary health care more accessible to students and thereby help reduce unmet needs
- provide assistance to young people to identify and address any health problems early
- reduce the pressure on working parents and community-based GPs.

### How is this initiative being coordinated?

The Department of Education and Training (DET) is working with Victoria's six Primary Health Networks (PHN) to engage general practices in their catchments to provide suitably experienced GPs to work with participating schools.

There are 2 schools in the SEMPHN region that will have services commence in Term 1 and Term 2 in 2017, with an additional 16 schools commencing later in 2017 and 2018.

The first 2 schools that will have services commence in **Term 1 or 2, 2017** that have been recruited are:

- Monterey Secondary College
- Rosebud Secondary College

Schools to have services commence in **Term 3, 2017** are:

- Carrum Downs Secondary School
- Cranbourne Secondary School
- Dandenong High School
- Gleneagles Secondary College
- Keysborough Secondary College
- McClelland Secondary College
- Narre Warren South P-12 College
- Noble Park Secondary College
- Oakwood School – Noble Park Campus
- Pakenham Secondary College
- Patterson River Secondary College

Schools to have services commence in **Term 1, 2018** are:

- Cranbourne East Secondary College
- Fountain Gate Secondary College
- Hallam Senior Secondary College
- Lyndale Secondary College
- Mornington Secondary College

## Selection Criteria

### General Practices

#### Essential clinic criteria:

- Hold accreditation by an approved accrediting agency as per the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme or be registered for accreditation against the RACGP Standards for General Practice.
- Access to practice software, willingness and ability to query practice software, and report data.
- Provide bulk billing services for students (or willingness to do so).

#### Key responsibilities will include:

- Provide an appropriately qualified General Practitioner to undertake medical consultations with students on school grounds up to one day a week
- Support the GP to implement clinical strategies where necessary (e.g. providing vaccinations)
- Securely store and maintain student medical records
- Manage billing and remuneration of participating staff
- Support participating staff to fulfil any reporting or data collection requirements.

### General Practitioner

The program is seeking GPs who are experienced in, or have a commitment to, working in adolescent health.

#### Key responsibilities will include:

- Provide medical advice and primary health care for students in partnership with a Nurse
- Work collaboratively with the school program lead, school health and wellbeing teams, school administrators and teachers to support promotion of the service and enhance student participation
- Attend initial training and ongoing professional development activities related to the role
- Comply with relevant DET policy and procedures
- Comply with any reporting or data collection requirements
- Participate in the evaluation activities of the program.

#### Essential criteria:

- Have a medical degree with license to practice in Australia
- Have appropriate professional indemnity cover
- Have an AHPRA registration with no restrictions on scope of practice
- Experience in working within a multidisciplinary team
- Excellent oral and written communication skills both with patients and professional staff, including school staff, community health providers and other GPs involved with the care of the young person
- Take a non-judgemental approach to care on any clinical issue that may arise
- Understand the concept of care coordination for patients with complex needs and vulnerability, as well as the concept of harm minimisation.

**Desirable criteria – experience in, and understanding of, any of the following:**

- Child and adolescent health
- Mental health
- Drug and alcohol services
- Forensic health services
- Community health
- Indigenous health
- Refugee and migrant health
- Sexual and reproductive health.

**Nurse role**

**The key responsibilities for this role will include:**

- Providing clinical, relationship and administrative management support for the GP
- Provide care coordination for students in collaboration with the GP
- Support the GP to contribute to the school's existing health and wellbeing programs to improve health literacy and preventive health
- Scheduling appointments and follow-ups as necessary for students and coordinate referrals with secondary health and wellbeing services
- Understanding and applying the consent and confidentiality requirements which apply to both the GP and the school
- Order, store and monitor medical supplies and medications in accordance with applicable law
- Maintain accurate and timely records of clinical activity for assessment, planning, implementation (and evaluation purposes as required), ensuring confidentiality of information relating to students and their families.

**Additional details**

All participating GPs, Nurses and school staff will be provided training in adolescent health, at no cost.

Participating schools that currently have a GP will be supported to continue with the existing arrangements.

Eligible GPs not currently affiliated with a general practice are also invited to nominate their interest; however, preference will be given to general practices.

Whilst continuity of care is of the utmost importance, at certain locations we would consider a rotating roster of 2 General Practitioners to better cater for the student cohort.

## For more information

[SEMPHN website](#)

**Victorian State government, Education and Training:**

[Doctors in Secondary Schools website](#)

[DET Doctors in Secondary Schools Fact Sheet](#)

[School term dates](#)

## How to Apply

Register your interest by emailing: [drsinschools@semphn.org.au](mailto:drsinschools@semphn.org.au)