

Imminent closure of Women's and Children's Hospital General Practice Liaison Unit

After 16 months of operation and following a successful external review, it is with deep regret that we inform you of the closure of the General Practice Liaison Unit (GPLU) at the Women's and Children's Hospital effective from Friday 29 June 2018.

The unit was established via a partnership between Adelaide Primary Health Network, Country SA Primary Health Network and the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN). All partners were committed to the continuation of the GPLU for a further three-year period, however recent insurmountable budget pressures have resulted in the WCHN advising that funding for the Unit will not be possible for the coming financial year.

The GPLU was established in February of 2017 to improve the coordination of care for South Australian children with chronic conditions who may benefit from care being provided closer to home by their General Practitioner. The program was designed to reduce the travel, cost and time burden on families, reduce unnecessary visits to Women's and Children's Hospital's outpatient clinics and improve communication between Specialist and Primary Care providers.

Adelaide Primary Health Network, Country SA Primary Health Network and Women's and Children's Health Network would like to sincerely thank the staff who have passionately undertaken this work, expertly led by Dr Helena Williams.

GP liaison support will still be available at the Women's and Children's Hospital and can be accessed via switchboard on pager 4797. Information and resources developed as part of the GPLU work can be accessed via <http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/>.

Adelaide Primary Health Network and Country SA Primary Health Network will continue to work with our Local Health Networks to explore opportunities to improve patient experience for South Australians. 'It is indeed a great pity that the work and learnings of the Women's and Children's GPLU, which has informed our collaboration and co-funding in other LHN areas, will not continue. However, we look forward to work collaboratively to ensure better health outcomes for the people in our regions' said Deb Lee, CEO of Adelaide Primary Health Network.

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