

Important update for Lithgow GPs regarding ATAPS referrals

Re-opening of general referrals for young people in Lithgow

Further to communication of 6 December regarding closure of the ATAPS Tier 1 (general) service to new referrals please note the following important change.

In response to an identified need, the ATAPS general service will be re-opened specifically for young people in the Lithgow area only.

Eligibility criteria for young people are as follows:

- Resident of Lithgow Local Government Area
- Age 12 to 25 years old
- Holder of a current Centrelink issued Health Care Card

Therefore from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018, ATAPS referrals can be made under the current eligibility criteria for:

Tier 1 (general) service

- Young people (12-25 yrs) residing in the Lithgow area (family or young person holding a current Centrelink issued Health Care Card)

Tier 2 services

- Children 0-11 years of age (family holds a current Centrelink issued Health Care Card)
- Women with perinatal mental health issues
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- People at low to moderate risk of suicide or self-harm (suicide prevention service)

In order to improve access for young people to timely psychological support, a provisional referral pathway is being developed with Lithgow High School. This would allow the young person to access 1-2 sessions initially with a mental health practitioner prior to formal assessment and referral by the GP. The school would help to facilitate this linkage to the GP.

The following mental health practitioners have indicated their capacity to accept new referrals from GPs in Lithgow.

Name	Profession	Location	Availability
Loretta Grant	Credentialed Mental Health Nurse	261 Main St Lithgow Ph: 0424 275 355	2-3 week wait
Sonia Kennedy	Clinical Social Worker (Mental Health)	Lithgow High School Ph: 0438 282 490	Thursdays – immediate availability
Linda Kennedy	Clinical Psychologist	2 Roy St Lithgow Ph: 0401 804 771	3-4 week wait
Peta O'Meley	Psychologist	2 Roy St Lithgow & 7 Railway Parade Lithgow Ph: 0438 687 237	3-4 days wait
Maria Quinn	Psychologist	2 Roy St Lithgow Ph: 0427 355 701	Referrals accepted only after direct discussion

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