

18 February 2020

## Parramatta Mission to establish Katoomba headspace

Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, is pleased to announce that Parramatta Mission will establish and operate the new headspace in Katoomba.

Parramatta Mission has more than 40 years' experience in developing and implementing mental health programs and currently operate two other headspace services in addition to various other youth programs.

Wentworth Healthcare CEO, Lizz Reay said, "We are excited to be partnering with Parramatta Mission to deliver this vital service to young people and their families in the upper mountains."

Last year, it was estimated that 28% of children and young people aged 5-17 years living in the Blue Mountains were at risk of, or are affected by mental illness. Wentworth Healthcare has spent the last five months consulting with young people, schools, other service providers and Blue Mountains City Council to ensure that the community has input into the plans for the service.

In December, Wentworth Healthcare co-hosted a Youth Roundtable event with Senator Marise Payne, which was attended by 40 community members including 16 local young people and the Federal Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman.

"We have taken the time to do extensive consultation in the area to ensure that in the development of this service local needs are being met," said Ms Reay.

"Young people have clearly told us that what they want is a safe space, a place to feel loved, supported and accepted. They want ownership and the opportunity to help shape the service. We believe that with Parramatta Mission's experience operating headspace Penrith, that they are well placed to deliver this service in Katoomba," she continued.

Keith Hamilton, Parramatta Mission Senior Minister and CEO said, "Parramatta Mission is delighted to partner with Wentworth Healthcare and headspace National on the delivery of this important initiative. Parramatta Mission is passionate about delivering excellent health services to its target groups who are often overlooked. We see enormous benefit in this service model for young people in building resilience, in facing the challenges of life and growing to meet their maximum potential. Our years of expertise and dedicated staff will ensure the young people of Katoomba get the essential support they need."

**headspace** is an early intervention mental health service for 12-25 year olds that also delivers support in the areas of physical and sexual health, assistance with alcohol and other drugs, employment and education support, as well as information and support for parents and carers.

The headspace Katoomba Satellite service is due to open in mid-2020.

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