

MEDIA RELEASE

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PHNS WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD THE PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE ACROSS GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY

Three Primary Health Networks (PHNs) have joined forces to develop a **Greater Western Sydney Primary Care Workforce Strategy** - a five-year plan to grow and sustain the region's primary healthcare workforce and improve health outcomes for one of Australia's most diverse and rapidly growing populations.

The Strategy is a collaborative initiative of the Nepean Blue Mountains, South Western Sydney, and Western Sydney Primary Health Networks, responding to critical workforce challenges including an ageing GP workforce, recruitment and retention issues and inequitable distribution of health professionals.

It is predicted the population of greater western Sydney will increase by a third in the next decade, as too will the demand for accessible, high-quality healthcare.

"This Strategy is a bold and necessary step toward addressing the workforce shortages that are impacting access to care across our region," said Lizz Reay, Chief Executive Officer, Nepean Blue Mountains PHN.

"We know that a strong primary care workforce is the foundation of a healthy community. By investing in workforce development now, we're ensuring that future generations in the Nepean Blue Mountains have access to the care they need, when they need it."

"Developing a joint workforce strategy will enable a data-driven, evidence-based and strategic approach to identifying and tackling challenges within the primary care workforce specific to the GWS region," said Amy Prince, Acting Chief Executive Officer, South Western Sydney PHN.

"This is not just a numbers issue - it's a people issue. We need to make primary care a more attractive and sustainable career path. That means better support, better training, and better pathways for professionals at every stage of their journey."

"Western Sydney is growing fast, and so are the demands on our health system," said Andrew Newton, Chief Executive, Western Sydney PHN.

"We're proud to be part of this joint mission. It's about more than just filling gaps - it's about building a workforce that reflects the diversity, resilience, and potential of our communities. Collaboration is key, and this Strategy sets the stage for lasting impact."

The Strategy will outline key actions to:

- Attract and retain a diverse and skilled primary care workforce
- Support workforce development and innovation
- Improve access to care and health outcomes for all residents

The three PHNs are calling on health professionals, educators, policymakers, and community leaders to join them in shaping a stronger, healthier future for Greater Western Sydney.