

## Tender Now Open – headspace Hawkesbury

Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, have released the tender to commission a suitable lead agency to establish and operate the new headspace centre in the Hawkesbury.

The full-service headspace is due to open by December 2023 and Wentworth Healthcare is seeking a service provider that can deliver high quality, effective and timely youth friendly services to the Hawkesbury community, in line with the headspace centre service model.

The centre will support early intervention, detection and treatment for young people aged 12-25 at risk of or experiencing issues with mental health, physical and sexual health, alcohol and/or other drugs, as well assistance with vocational and educational services.

It is estimated that of those aged 5-17 years in the Hawkesbury, over a quarter have mental health needs or were affected by a mental health disorder. Wentworth Healthcare CEO, Lizz Reay, said the service would be vital in supporting young people and their families, particularly as many navigate life after multiple natural disasters and the pandemic.

“Hawkesbury youth have been through so much, from drought to bushfires, a pandemic and multiple floods. These events have had a profound impact on our youth, and we know that headspace services play an important role in supporting young people and their mental health. We have been advocating for additional youth mental health services in our region for some time and are excited that we can now take the next step in meeting the needs of the Hawkesbury community,” said Ms Reay.

“Intervention programs such as headspace are critical as they not only impact young people’s lives in the present but can influence the whole community as these young people mature into adulthood,” she said.

Federal member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman, said “headspace is a long-overdue but vital service for young people and their families in the Hawkesbury. A full-service headspace should provide a very tailored, holistic approach to mental good health for our youth. It can help tackle problems as they emerge and be the sort of place a young person is happy to visit.”

“A service like this could have been life-changing for my family when my kids were teenagers, and I look forward to the doors being open as soon as possible,” she said.

Service providers interested in responding to the tender are encouraged to attend an online information session with Wentworth Healthcare and headspace National on **Tuesday 13 December, at 10:00am - 11:00am**. The session will provide organisations with an overview of the tender process and an opportunity to ask questions. Register via [www.nbmphn.com.au/events](http://www.nbmphn.com.au/events)

**Tender applications close 5:00pm Monday 30 January 2023.** For more information or to apply visit [www.nbmphn.com.au/tenders](http://www.nbmphn.com.au/tenders)



If community members, particularly young people, want to participate in any consultations or be kept up-to-date about headspace Hawkesbury, you can register through HealthHub, at [www.healthhub.nbmphn.com.au/headspace-hawkesbury-](http://www.healthhub.nbmphn.com.au/headspace-hawkesbury-)

“We know that community and health industry consultation is very important to the design of this centre and there will be opportunities for people to provide input in the coming months,” said Ms Reay.

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