



MEDIA RELEASE

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New HQ for expanding local health group

One of the fastest growing health organisations in the region, the New England Division of General Practice (NEDGP), has moved into new headquarters in Rusden St, Armidale.

Over the last 15 years the not-for-profit Division has expanded from a staff of three to its current 45 in Armidale, Tenterfield, Inverell, Guyra and Glen Innes.

It began with a small group of local doctors in 1993 and now involves all its 64 General Practitioner members within a population catchment of over 66,000 from Tenterfield in the north to Uralla in the south and west to Inverell and Bundarra.

"We fill a niche in delivering programs and services that promote better health in the community and also assist GPs manage their patients' chronic medical conditions through practice support and specific health programs" said CEO Sally Armitage.

"Our strength is that we can work on issues and develop programs collaboratively with doctors and other health professionals, community groups, government agencies including the Hunter New England Area Health Service, neighbouring Divisions and the University of New England to meet specific local needs.

The new purpose built headquarters which the Division is renting, located close to the Armidale Hospital and other health services, provides consulting rooms for specialists and a large conference room as well as offices for expanding staff numbers.

"It's great to have this extra space," Ms Armitage said. "We've had a good year with the running of some innovative and progressive programs and have been acknowledged for some of the good work we have achieved including recently winning the Weight Watchers Award for our Fit Families program."

Programs currently delivered by the Division include the Alzheimer's Australia (Dementia educator and carer support Officer), Drought Affected Communities (Community Support Officer, Inverell), Fit Families lifestyle Program, Mental Health services, National Prescribing Service, Heart Health and Diabetes Programs, Memory Assessment Program and Support Services, Aboriginal Health Services, More Allied Health Services (including supermarket tours, podiatry and physiotherapy) and the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program.

Further information about Division programs is available at www.nedgp.org.au.

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