

New consulting rooms an attraction

An expansion of the Gippsland Lakes Community Health Medical Clinic co-funded by the Federal Government will attract more doctors to Lakes Entrance.

Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester, said the new consulting rooms in Jemmeson Street would provide extra space to increase the number of fully qualified GPs and trainee doctors.

The new building has been made possible by a co-venture between the Government and GLCH.

A total of \$60,000 in federal funding was allocated through the Rural and Regional Teaching Infrastructure Grants, matched by GLCH raised through donations.

Mr Chester said GPs remained in high demand across East Gippsland.

"This grant will play a small part in attracting more doctors to East Gippsland, where they can gain experience in a rural and regional setting," Mr Chester said.

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Gippsland Lakes Community Health executive manager of clinical and nursing services, Cheryl Bush, Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester, and GLCH chief executive officer, Sue Medson, outside the construction zone at the Jemmeson Street facility where new consulting suites will be added. K1192-589

Increased capacity

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"We already have a number of excellent GPs in Lakes Entrance, but there is an increasing demand for primary health care that needs to be met.

"Ultimately we would like to see the doctors who undertake a placement in East Gippsland to fall in love with the area and stay here permanently."

GLCH chief executive officer, Sue Medson, said the grant would boost access to GPs.

"Research shows that doctors who develop skills in rural practice often return to the rural setting when they complete their qualifications," Ms Medson said.

"By increasing the size of the clinic to accommodate more training places GLCH can offer a positive contribution to the development of a strong medical workforce for East Gippsland.

"These new rooms will help

provide more timely access to medical care for the community and enable the practice to undertake a more pro-active approach to health care as a result of an increased workforce."

Ms Medson said the new rooms would increase capacity to accommodate specialists either face-to-face, or via tele-health.

"This will also benefit our community and provide a consulting space for students to undertake a pre-consultation process prior to the GP attending for a formal consultation."

The planned construction will reconfigure the current triage area to provide additional workspace including a designated computer workstation.

Medical students will also be able to engage in health assessments under the supervision of an experienced registered nurse within the triage area.