

MEDIA RELEASE



GP down south

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Changes to Child Health Service Media Release

Babies and young children in the South West will soon receive developmental health check-ups directly from a state government department says GP down south (GPds).

Plans are underway for the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) to take over responsibility for the child health services provided by GP down south in the South West from 2018. Towns impacted by the changes include Busselton, Dunsborough, Margaret River, Augusta, Australind and Eaton.

GP down south has started winding up its child health service and will provide its last child health clinic on 15th December this year. The charity has been told its contract with the WA State Government will not be continued in 2018.

GPds's CEO Amanda Poller said, "Our child health program has delivered an outstanding service to the community over the last 5 years and assisted more than 1000 children with developmental health checks."

"A new model of service delivery that focuses on families identified as requiring intensive parenting support is being developed by the state government," she said.

"Its proposed the government's new service model will be more targeted and may potentially include partnering with families to deliver blocks of enhanced services."

"All of GPds's other services and programmes will continue as normal.", said Amanda.

Families should continue to keep their appointments with their GPds child health nurse.

People who want to make child health appointments after the 15th December this year should call WACHS on 1800 457 949.

The changes will result in 6 job losses for community child health nurses employed by GPds.

GPds is a local not for profit charity delivering health and wellbeing services in the south west.

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