29 September 2017

New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander diabetes service opens at Caloundra

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the Sunshine Coast can now directly benefit from a new diabetes clinic at the Caloundra Health Service.

The new clinic will commence on Tuesday 3 October 2017 and will then operate regularly, every second Tuesday morning.

The Clinical Director of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Dr Shyam Sunder said this clinic has been established in direct response to feedback from our patients and the community.

“We are very proud to be launching this service in Caloundra. We expect regular clinics to follow in both Nambour and Gympie as well,” Dr Sunnder said.

“Operation of this exciting new clinic will crucially involve important collaboration between the Endocrinology / diabetes service and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health promotion team to target a real area of need.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are three and a half times more likely to have diabetes and four times more likely to be hospitalised with diabetes related conditions,” Dr Sunnder said.

“Diabetes occurs at a younger age in indigenous people and its complications can therefore develop earlier than is the case for the non indigenous population.

“Early intervention in the form of risk factor modification and good management of diabetes will help with closing this gap.”

Tara Robinson, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker, said patients at the clinic would be consulted by a multi-disciplinary team, including an endocrinologist, other key members of the diabetes service such as a diabetes educator and a dietitian, as well as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

“The clinic team will aim to help patients ‘live strong’ with diabetes. In addition to providing clinical care, the clinic will promote important lifestyle changes, including eating well, keeping physically active, compliance with prescribed medications,"
optimising blood sugar levels to prevent complications as well as promoting smoking cessation,” she said.

Patients can ask their GPs or other health professionals for a referral to the new clinic, or are able to phone directly on 5470 5088, with any questions.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

What: New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander diabetes service opens at Caloundra

When: 11:30am, Tuesday 3 October, 2017

Where: Meet outside Caloundra Hospital, West Terrace Caloundra

ENDS

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