

## News Release

Date released: Wednesday 23 October 2024

# Grants awarded to increase immunisation rates across the Gold Coast

The Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) has delivered grants of up to \$10,000 each to support initiatives and activities that will increase immunisation rates across the Gold Coast.

Awarded to 13 local primary care providers, medical organisations, not-for-profit groups and endorsed health professionals the *Immunisation Ready Grants* will help improve the community's knowledge on the benefits of immunisation.

The funding covers training and education, staffing and operations and other resources.

GCPHN CEO Matt Carrodus says the grants will help to improve access to immunisation services, strengthen systems and processes and enhance the community's immunisation literacy.

"It's vitally important that people, young and old, are aware of the immunisations they need to stay fit and healthy and one step ahead of illness," Mr Carrodus said.

One grant will fund a pop-up immunisation clinic at the Paradise Point Parklands on Saturday 9 November from 9:00am – 1:00pm.

It will be coordinated by Runaway Bay's Gold Coast Medical Centre with Dr Reza Madah saying he's hoping for a big rollup.

"We'll have a gazebo and plenty of tables and chairs and colourful bunting and paraphernalia to create a picnic atmosphere," Dr Madah said.

"We'll provide free immunisations for COVID-19\*, influenza\*, shingles\* and pneumonia\* and our practice staff will be there to provide plenty of information on why people should immunise and the importance of keeping their immunisations up to date.

"And being out in the park it'll be a fun way for people to get to know their local doctors a little better," he said.



*"Building one world class health system for the Gold Coast."*

Gold Coast Primary Health Network would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the land and the traditional practices of the families of the Yugambeh Language Region of South East Queensland and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Mr Carrodus said the grants are an extension of the GCPHN's primary role of providing resources and information to the Gold Coast community on how to find local health services.

"People can access a huge range of other healthcare information from us including aged care, mental health, primary care, and more.

"For those new to the area or who simply don't know which way to turn, we're here to help make the right connections," he said.

People wanting further information or direction on any other health matter can visit [www.gcphn.org.au](http://www.gcphn.org.au).

*\*Eligibility criteria apply.*

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## ENDS

### **Interview opportunity:**

Mr Carrodus is available for interview on this important community health initiative.

To arrange to speak to him or for further background information, please contact GCPHN Communications Consultant Wayne Hickson on 0407 028 917 or at [wayneh@gcphn.com.au](mailto:wayneh@gcphn.com.au)

### **Background:**

Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care.

We are committed to building a healthy, connected, and resilient community.

One of the ways we do this is by providing resources and information for the Gold Coast community about how to access local health services.

Our funded services include Mental Health, Primary Care, and Aged Care among others.



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