

GLADSTONE GP SUPERCLINIC INTRODUCES TEEN SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC



The Gladstone GP Superclinic is proud to commence a much-needed clinic for teens of the Gladstone region that launched on Friday 26 November.

Scheduled for every second Friday from 3pm – 5pm, Dr Farhana Sharman will be running a Teen Sexual Health Clinic, for teens and young adults aged between 13 and 26 years. Dr Farhana has extensive experience in the hospital system and has just completed her GP Fellowship. Dr Farhana is delighted to be the first doctor taking on this role.

"I'm proud to be a local Gladstone GP involved in a positive initiative to assist young adults with their questions or concerns relating to sexual health. It's an important part of development and I think learning early that there are professionals available to talk to, will only further help young people within the community," said Dr Farhana.

With a special interest in sexual health for both males and females, Dr Farhana is well placed to fill this role, and she hopes other doctors will also be able to get involved as the clinic develops.

Practice Manager of Gladstone GP Superclinic, Annette Coleborn who has encouraged the initiative, said she hopes it offers the needed support teens seek.

"The clinic is designed to provide easier access for teens to sexual health information and medical services from a registered doctor. This will mean patients are able to discuss any concerns and obtain scripts for contraception or have STI screening in the safety and privacy of a state-of-the-art medical centre," said Ms Coleborn.



To ensure the clinic is accessible and utilised by teens, the following processes and considerations have been put in place:

- The clinic will be set away from the other GP rooms, to offer teens confidence in the privacy of their attendance.
- The clinic will be billed at a discounted fee, to limit the out-of-pocket expense.
- If teens are unable to bring their Medicare card – the team will have access to look up their file, so they don't need to ask a parent or guardian.
- Any teen over the age of 15 does not need to be accompanied by an adult – they can come alone or with a friend.
- Gladstone GP Superclinic is also fortunate to have a pathology collection centre next door, who bulk bills blood tests; as well as a chemist who can fill scripts the same day as clinic appointments.

The safe and confidential environment of the Gladstone GP Superclinic provides teens and young adults the opportunity to seek the advice and services they want or need from a professional, whilst knowing their privacy will be upheld.