

**IPC HEALTH - CHILD HEALTH SERVICES**

**WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE?**

A community health service works in partnership with the local community to provide responsive, interconnected health and community services. It is a not-for-profit organisation.

**IPC HEALTH PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:**

* Psychology (for children) - Speech Therapy
* Family Services - Occupational Therapy
* Dietetics - Podiatry
* Counselling Services (for parents) - Financial Counselling
* Dental Services - Paediatricians

**Child Health Team Services**

The Child Health Team offers individual and group services. We can also work together with Kindergarten Educators. This often starts by visiting the kindergarten to observe how the child participates in the classroom. This can help us learn about the child’s developmental needs. Strategies may be provided to help support children at kindergarten.

**Occupational Therapy:**Paediatric Occupational Therapists look at the activities children take part in their everyday life. They help children to take care of themselves (**self-care**) participate in Kinder and learning (**productivity**) and enjoy life/leisure (**play**). They can help children do activities by themselves so they feel confident when participating at different activities at Kindergarten.

**Speech Pathology:**

Paediatric Speech Pathologists work with families to help children communicate. They can help support children who have difficulties with their language (understanding and using spoken language), difficulties with saying sounds clearly, social conversation skills and stuttering.

**Psychology:**

The psychologist works closely with parents to help them support their child’s development at home. Parents are encouraged to work with the psychologist to help improve their child’s capacity for learning, socialisation and play skills, build emotional regulation or resilience skills and increase their child’s cooperation.

**WHEN SHOULD I REFER TO IPC HEALTH FOR CHILD HEALTH TEAM?**

Eligibility is determined by the standards outlined by the Department of Health for community health services.

* Children referred to the Child Health Team **ARE ELIGIBLE** ifthey have MILD needs in one or more of the above areas.
* Children are **NOT ELIGIBLE** if they are suspected of having OR already have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Global Developmental Delay, need ongoing therapy for more than behaviour difficulties, or are eligible for another service like Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI/NDIS).

If there are concerns about moderate to significant delays in one or more developmental areas, a discussion about service options (other than IPC Health - Child Health Team) is in the best interests of the child and family, to ensure the most appropriate service is accessed as early as possible.

**If unsure, please contact Intake at IPC-Health or a member of the Child Health Team to discuss issues around which service may best suit the child’s needs.**

**OBTAINING PARENTAL/CARER CONSENT:**

Parental/carer consent is a requirement for referral to IPC Health. It can sometimes be difficult to initiate conversations around consent with parents/carers. The following tips may facilitate these conversations:

* Start communicating with parents/carers as early as possible about observations of the child
* Record examples and dates of your observations
* Invite parents/carers to share any similar observations they may have had
* Explain that referral to a service such as IPC Health is about finding the best service to support the needs of the child and family.
* Express that the objective is to enable the child to be ‘school ready’ and focus on the skills needed for school.

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| **HOW DO I MAKE A REFERRAL TO IPC HEALTH FOR A CHILD HEALTH SERVICE (Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology and Psychology)?**  Educators and parents are able to contact IPC Health and speak to our Intake services directly to make a referral (Ph: 8734 1400).  Otherwise, please complete a Referral Form AND a Referral Checklist appropriate to the age of the child. If you would like a copy please call and ask to speak to our Intake services on 8734 1400.  IPC Health contact details are:  117-129 Warringa Crescent, Hoppers Crossing, 3029 or 330 Queen St, Altona Meadows, 3028  Phone: 8734 1400 Phone: 8368 3000  Fax: 8734 1460 **(For families living in Seabrook)**  Email: [ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au](mailto:ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au) |

**IPC HEALTH SERVICES**

**PAEDIATRICIANS**

IPC Health also has two Paediatricians who CAN assess and diagnose children and **WILL see children where there is a suspicion of ASD**.

The services of the Paediatricians will be bulk billed but a **GP referral is required**.

The GP referrals can be sent, faxed or emailed but must have the wording ‘ATTENTION: IPC HEALTH PAEDIATRICIAN WYNDHAM VALE’ in the subject line.

Fax: 9216 7899 Email: [ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au](mailto:ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au)

**PAEDIATRIC FELLOW**

IPC Health has a Paediatric Fellow and they **WILL see children without Medicare cards**. They can consult and give recommendations ONLY, they **cannot assess and diagnose**. A **GP referral is NOT required** but there is a Referral Form available (either call IPC Health direct on the number below or call the PSFO team for a copy).

Referrals can be sent, faxed or emailed but must have the wording ‘ATTENTION: PAEDIATRIC FELLOW IPC HEALTH WYNDHAM VALE’ in the subject line.

Fax: 9216 7899 Email: [ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au](mailto:ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au)

**For more information on the Paediatricians or Paediatric Fellow, call 9216 7991 Wyndham Vale Super Clinic - 510 Ballan Road, Wyndham Vale, 3024)**