

**IPC HEALTH (Community 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
* GP Services

**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 (Developmental and Educational):**

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: 1300 472 432 Phone: 8368 3000  Fax: 8734 1460 **(For families living in Seabrook)**  Email: [wyndham.intake@ipchealth.com.au](mailto:wyndham.intake@ipchealth.com.au) |

**IPC HEALTH SERVICES**

**PAEDIATRICIANS**

IPC Health also has three Paediatricians who CAN assess and diagnose children and **WILL see children where there is a suspicion of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**.

The services of the Paediatricians will be bulk billed with a small co-payment 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. **The demand for this service is very high and we are currently not accepting new referrals. Please contact IPC Health before making the referral to ensure we can accept it.**

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

**PAEDIATRIC FELLOW**

IPC Health has a Paediatric Fellow and they **will see children without Medicare cards**. They can provide paediatric assessments and consultation, confirm most relevant diagnoses and make recommendations. A **GP referral is NOT required to see the Paediatric Fellow.**

For referrals and rescheduling of appointments, contact the Royal Children’s Hospital Central Intake on 03 9345 6180 mentioning Outreach CCCH Wyndham Vale, Paediatric Fellow. Referrals can be faxed to the RCH Central Intake team on 03 9345 5034 or emailed to [clinics@rch.org.au](mailto:clinics@rch.org.au)

**For more information on the Paediatricians or Paediatric Fellow, call 1300 472 432 Wyndham Vale Super Clinic - 510 Ballan Road, Wyndham Vale, 3024)**

**DEER PARK**

**IPC Health has a Paediatrician at Deer Park, anyone can refer, there is approximately a 12-month waiting period to be seen.**

**IPC Health has a Paediatrician and Paediatric Fellow seeing refugee and asylum seeker children only. GP referral is required. Approximately 6 months waiting period to be seen**

**We will accept referrals from Wyndham as long as people are happy to travel to Deer Park for appointments.**

**Referrals for Deer Park can be faxed to 03 8322 0348.**

**DENTAL SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) allows for basic dental treatment (up to $1000 in benefits) over a 2-year period for eligible 2-17 year olds (that is if they receive Family Tax Benefit A or other relevant Australian Government payments). Treatment is bulk billed via Medicare.

IPC Health will complete a child’s general dental care at no cost to the parents if the child reaches the $1000 benefit limit. The next available appointment will be offered and can be flexible dependent on school/work schedules.

Note: Specialist treatments such as orthodontic or cosmetic dental work are not covered under CDBS.

Appointments are made by telephoning the closest Dental clinic:

IPC Health Altona Meadows, 1300 472 432 OR IPC Health Hoppers Crossing, 1300 472 432





**A Community Health Centre Serving Melbourne’s West**

**Who can use this Service?**

* This Service is available to people from a refugee background & people seeking asylum who live, work or study in Wyndham, Brimbank or Hobsons Bay.

**How can we help?**

* Can work with families to access support and navigate the Healthcare and Social System
* Refer families to a Family Doctor or GP
* Link families in with other Service Providers

**Services Offered:**

* GP clinics
* Allied health- Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapy, Counselling, Child Health, Youth & Women’s Health Nursing among many other services

Please refer to the following link: <https://www.ipchealth.com.au/refugee-health/>

**Payment/Bulk Billed?**

* Refugee Health Program is a **Free** service
* IPC Health Services- some fees based on income

**Who can refer?**

* Anyone can refer people from Refugee or Asylum Seeker like backgrounds
* Community Case worker – supports Care Coordination & Social Issues
* Refugee Health Nurse – supports Care Coordination & Health Issues

To obtain a Referral Form or Book an Appointment contact**: 1300 472 432**

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| The Refugee Health Team work from these offices: | |
| **Hoppers Crossing**  117-129 Warringa Crescent | **Sunshine**  Level 1, 499 Ballarat Road |
| **Wyndham Vale**  510 Ballan Road | **Deer Park**  106 Station Road |

**Interpreters are available for FREE – please let them know when booking an appointment**

**For more info, contact:** Sarah Christensen (Refugee Health Nurse & Program Coordinator) on the above number