

# **NEW BANYULE COMMUNITY HEALTH WEST HEIDELBERG CENTRE OPENS**



West Heidelberg's ultra modern new Community Health Centre was officially opened today with an increased range of health and counselling services to local residents.

The Minister for Health, Bronwyn Pike, and the State member for Ivanhoe, Craig Langdon officially opened the Banyule Community Health West Heidelberg Centre following 18 months of construction.

The \$ 11.5 million facility is on the historic site of the former Administration Centre for the athletes' housing village for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

Banyule Community Health's, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jim Pasinis, said the Centre offered "one of the most modern facilities in Victoria" to people utilising its services.

"It is a far cry from the 50 year old facilities we occupied previously and is most welcomed by the people for whom we provide health care and counselling and our staff," he said. "It acknowledges the past, but looks to the future in meeting the needs of the community.

"It also reflects the commitment of the State government to community health and allows us to increase the range of services we can offer in a central location."

The Centre houses both Medical and Dental Clinics, Podiatry rooms, Physiotherapy gym and treatment rooms and has space for community groups to hold meetings, forums and events.

It also provides private counselling rooms for Banyule Community Health's wide range of programs and services, including the new early intervention chronic diseases program and the specialised children's services in speech pathology and occupational therapy, as well as Gamblers Help, financial counselling, drug and alcohol counselling, a needle and syringe program and community nursing and community development.

There is also a special Somali worker program to provide counselling for the large Somali community in West Heidelberg.

It will be also the Centre for the Banyule City Council's immunization program, the West Heidelberg Community Legal Services, in partnership with La Trobe University School of Law, Olympic Adult Education, North East Housing Services, Banyule Nillumbik Primary Care Partnership, West Heidelberg Neighbourhood Renewal and Heidelberg Public Tenants Association.

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