

MEDIA RELEASE

Bairnsdale Advertiser, Friday 22 January 2010

GLCH expands Speech Pathology Services to Bairnsdale

Parents who were unable to access paediatric speech services in Bairnsdale due to rural workforce shortages in both the private and public health system recently, now can at Gippsland Lakes Community Health's Main street site.

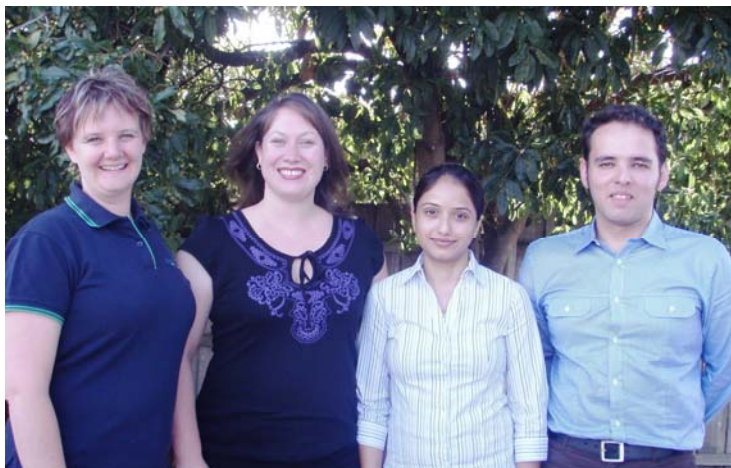
Recent changes within the National Health Care system has allowed GLCH to address these shortages by billing Medicare directly for services provided by allied health practitioners.

"This is an exciting time for us," explained Angela Ellis, executive manager of community health services at GLCH. "Our allied health practitioners are now registered service providers with Medicare making it possible for us to provide bulk-billed allied health services to clients with a Medicare referral from their GP."

"GLCH has also become an Early Intervention service provider recently, which enables us to provide children with Autism or other complex needs with the Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy services they require."

As a result of these changes, GLCH has successfully recruited new staff to its allied health team. Terry Stathakis, Speech Pathologist, Alpa Vyas, Physiotherapist, Rebecca Tivendale, Exercise Physiologist, and Erin Lee, Occupational Therapist have all recently commenced and all will be instrumental in the delivery of allied health services at GLCH's Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance sites.

If you would like more information or an appointment, please contact Aged and Community Health Services Intake at Gippsland Lakes Community Health.



Pictured l to r: Rebecca Tivendale, Exercise Physiologist; Erin Lee, Occupational Therapist; Alpa Vyas, Physiotherapist; and Terry Stathakis, Speech Pathologist.