

04 February 2020

New Aboriginal health centre to deliver care in Bankstown

A new community health centre in Bankstown will enhance South Western Sydney Local Health District's holistic care services for Aboriginal people in the region.

The Bankstown Aboriginal Community Health Centre officially opened on Tuesday, 4 February, and will expand on the services offered at Budyari Community Health Centre in Miller.

South Western Sydney Local Health District Director of Aboriginal Health Nathan Jones said the new Bankstown centre would offer high-quality care to the growing Aboriginal population.

"Budyari Community Health Centre is an important service that provides access to a range of essential services, so it's wonderful to see the district expand this model of care to Bankstown," Mr Jones said.

"The reason the service is so well utilised is because it has a holistic approach to health, where Aboriginal health workers partner with medical and allied health clinicians to build health plans tailored to the individual.

The centre is at 122 Chapel Bankstown, and has undergone a \$500,000 refurbishment to house the service.

"We have a beautiful new garden where Aboriginal elders were involved in the plant selection and the carpets were designed by an Aboriginal artist," Mr Jones said.

The centre's Bankstown location offers a more convenient service for clients living in the northern part of the South Western Sydney Local Health District.

"The centre is 10 minutes' walk from the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital and has a bus stop right out the front, making it easy to access for our clients," Mr Jones said.

"At the time of opening, the Bankstown centre has relationships with several specialist services, including cardiology, optometry and podiatry and we are speaking to a range of others.

"Over the next 12 months, we will continue to build the range of services."

The 2018-19 budget for South Western Sydney Local Health District was \$1.9 billion, an increase of \$85.8 million on the 2017-18 annualised budget. Between mid-2012 and mid-2018, the District increased its workforce by an additional 1921 full-time equivalent staff – an increase of over 22 per cent, including 321 more doctors and 916 more nurses.

