

# The Elms



Family Medical Centre

## Quarterly Newsletter

*Keeping you in touch with developments at our Medical Centre*

[www.theelms.com.au](http://www.theelms.com.au)



Spring 2014

The Elms recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Werribee Mansion with a 1920s themed dinner for staff and their partners. An eerie full moon and the mansion location made for a perfect backdrop, with a professionally hosted crime mystery activity getting guests mingling and sleuthing. An audio-visual presentation of the story of The Elms reminded everyone how far we have come, as well as how fashions have changed!

### Accreditation Success

The Elms is proud that it was the very first general practice to be accredited in the Central Highlands region, which covers an area that includes towns such as Daylesford, Melton, Gisborne, Sunbury, Kyneton and Woodend. We have recently been successful in being re-accredited for another three year period. The report from the surveyors who performed the assessment was extremely positive, highlighting the many areas that we excelled in.

Recognition as an accredited general practice means that we have achieved quality benchmarks set by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. This refers not only to the quality of medical care but also clinic facilities, safety systems, emergency protocols, information handling, and staff education.

We would like to thank every one of our staff for their ongoing efforts to maintain and continually improve what we believe is an already outstanding medical clinic. A special thank you goes to Vicki Borg, our assistant practice manager, who was instrumental in our accreditation success by ensuring that we exceeded in all criteria.

### Doctor news

We welcome Dr Ayesha Munir as a new general practice registrar at The Elms. Ayesha will be working full-time during her twelve month rotation with us. She has a special interest in women's health, as well as aged care and palliative care. Ayesha has previously completed clinical placements at the Austin Hospital, as well as a general practice term in Preston. She replaces Dr Alfy Ordukaya who has completed his twelve month placement with us and is now in St Arnaud for his next rotation. We wish Alf well as he continues on his experience in general practice.

A registrar is a qualified medical practitioner who has been accepted into a formal post-graduate specialty training program, with The Elms being a recognised rotation for the general practice specialty. Only practices that have demonstrated a high standard of excellence are accepted as providers of specialist training and mentorship.

### Extra podiatrist services

Medical Footcare Podiatry, the podiatry service provided by Dr Gerard Zammit and Stephanie Giramondo at The Elms, will be expanding their available days to satisfy growing demand. As of September, the podiatry clinic will consult half days on Wednesday, in addition to the current sessions on Tuesday and alternate Mondays. Appointments can be made by phoning Medical Footcare Podiatry on (03) 9449-9393.

## **Closing The Gap**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders generally have poorer health outcomes compared to non-indigenous Australians. To help address this imbalance, the Australian Government has established the Closing The Gap scheme which offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders access to additional services as well as support with the cost of medications and prescriptions.

Our Chronic Disease Nurse Manager, Sophie Kerr, is the coordinator of the Closing The Gap program at The Elms. Patients who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander can speak with reception, their doctor or Sophie about registering for this scheme.

In recognition of our support of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, we have been presented with traditional artwork titled “Man and Woman on the Journey Together” painted by Ross A Morgan of the Yorta Yorta Tribe, Victoria. This piece was painted originally as a tribute to Aunty Sue, and was generously donated to the clinic by Sue and the Lovett family. We display this precious gift proudly in our waiting room for all to see.

## **Human papilloma virus vaccination (Gardasil)**

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) has been linked with various diseases such as cervical cancer. The Australian-developed vaccine against this virus, Gardasil, has been available to females since 2007 as part of the National Immunisation Program to reduce this risk. Coverage now includes males, with all children turning 12-13 years given the immunisation at school, with a temporary catch up schedule in 2014 for all males aged 14-15 years.

The course consists of three injections given over a six month period. However, for students who missed their injection at school, the Gardasil immunisation can be administered by our clinic nurse at The Elms (bulk-billed). The free catch up program for males aged 14-15 years finishes at the end of 2014.

Anyone else who wants to be immunised against HPV who is not eligible as part of the National Immunisation Program, can pay to have the three injection course of Gardasil privately. This requires that the injections are purchased from a pharmacy (costing around \$150 each) with a prescription from your doctor. The injections can then be administered with an appointment (bulk-billed) with our clinic nurse.

## **Tele-health consultations with other specialists**

Doctors at The Elms can conduct tele-health consultations with participating Melbourne-based specialists through the use of video linking equipment. This is particularly suitable for review consultations where a face-to-face visit is less crucial. The advantages of tele-health include minimising time for travel, avoiding difficulty with parking in the city, and having both your doctor and specialist discussing your care which improves safety and communication. Tele-health consultations are particularly suitable for those with mobility difficulties or patients who have limited supports at home.

Please speak with your doctor or specialist about the suitability of tele-health consultations for your condition.

## **No such thing as co-payments with Bulk-billing**

Children under the age of 16 years are bulk-billed at The Elms, along with holders of a pension card, Veteran’s Affairs card, Health Care Card and those on Government unemployment benefits. The Government’s proposed policy of co-payments associated with bulk-billing is not a reality and so no clinic can actually “waive” this non-existent co-payment.

**“We are proud to be an Accredited General Practice”**

