

Wednesday 18 February 2009



MEDIA RELEASE

DENTAL SERVICES AT WIMMERA HEALTH CARE GROUP

People are reminded that they must give at least 24 hours notice if they cannot attend their scheduled dental appointment at Wimmera Health Care Group.

Senior Dentist, Dr Meral Layik said that there had been an increased number of people not turning up for their appointments over recent weeks.

“The dental service is in high demand and our emergency and general waiting lists are already lengthy. When people don’t turn up for their appointment at the last minute, there is insufficient time to allocate the appointment to someone else. Sometimes we have emergency patients that we need to turn away” she said.

Dr Layik said that the increased number of people not turning up for their appointments at the last minute was placing additional pressures on the service. “We are heavily booked for general appointments, with people already needing to wait up to 24 months in advance for their appointment. We always give people a reminder call the day before their appointment is scheduled, but they are still not turning up. It means that we have to turn emergency patients away sometimes, and our waiting lists for general appointments are getting longer” she said.

Wimmera Health Care Group employs two dentists, along with a dental therapist and a dental prosthetist. The clinic provides basic dental treatment such as fillings, extractions and cleanings (including dentures or false teeth) for patients who hold a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card.

The Dental Clinic is also integrated with the school dental van for primary school aged children. The dental van is located at Horsham's 298 primary school, but appointments must be made through Wimmera Health Care Group's Dental Clinic. This service is free of charge for Health Care Card holders and a \$28 fee for the full service applies for families without a Health Care Card.

For further information about the Dental Service at Wimmera Health Care Group, or to make an appointment, people should phone (03) 5381 9248.



Senior dentist Dr Meral Layik and dental assistant Jacqueline Worpel attend to a patient at Wimmera Health Care Group's dental clinic in Horsham

MEDIA CONTACT:

Sue Frankham
Community and Private Patient Liaison Officer
Ph. 5381 9309