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**IPC HEALTH (Community Health) - CHILD HEALTH SERVICES**

**WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE?**

A community health service works in partnership with the local community to provide responsive, interconnected health and community services. It is a not-for-profit organisation.

**IPC HEALTH PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:**

* Psychology (for children) - Speech Therapy
* Family Services - Occupational Therapy
* Dietetics - Podiatry
* Counselling Services (for parents) - GP Services
* Dental Services - Paediatricians

**IPC HEALTH SERVICES**

**CHILD HEALTH TEAM**

The Child Health Team offers individual and group services. We can also work together with Kindergarten Educators. This may include visiting the Kindergarten to observe how the child participates in the classroom. This can help us learn about the child’s developmental needs. Strategies may be provided to help support children at Kindergarten.

**Occupational Therapy:**Paediatric Occupational Therapists look at the activities children take part in their everyday life. They help children to take care of themselves (**self-care**) participate in Kinder and learning (**productivity**) and enjoy life/leisure (**play**). They can help children do activities by themselves so they feel confident when participating at different activities at Kindergarten.

**Speech Pathology:**

Paediatric Speech Pathologists work with families to help children communicate. They can help support children who have difficulties with their language (understanding and using spoken language), difficulties with saying sounds clearly, social conversation skills and stuttering.

**Psychology (Developmental and Educational):**

The psychologist works closely with parents to help them support their child’s development at home. Parents are encouraged to work with the psychologist to help improve their child’s capacity for learning, socialisation and play skills, build emotional regulation or resilience skills and increase their child’s cooperation.

**WHEN SHOULD I REFER TO IPC HEALTH FOR CHILD HEALTH TEAM?**

Eligibility is determined by the standards outlined by the Department of Health for community health services.

* Children referred to the Child Health Team **ARE ELIGIBLE** ifthey have challenges in predominately one developmental area.
* Children are **NOT ELIGIBLE** if they have challenges in more than one developmental area and are likely to require long term supports. This would include children who are suspected of having OR already have a diagnosis of Autism, Global Developmental Delay, significant behaviour challenges, or are eligible for another service like Early Childhood Approach (ECA/NDIS).

If there are concerns about more than one developmental area, a discussion about service options (other than IPC Health - Child Health Team) is in the best interests of the child and family, to ensure the most appropriate service is accessed as early as possible.

**If unsure, please contact Intake at IPC-Health or a member of the Child Health Team to discuss issues around which service may best suit the child’s needs.**

**OBTAINING PARENTAL/CARER CONSENT:**

Parental/carer consent is a requirement for referral to IPC Health. It can sometimes be difficult to initiate conversations around consent with parents/carers. The following tips may facilitate these conversations:

* Start communicating with parents/carers as early as possible about observations of the child.
* Record examples and dates of your observations.
* Invite parents/carers to share any similar observations they may have had.
* Use the IPC Health referral checklists (by age) with parents to gain an overview of the child’s needs to inform referral pathway.
* Explain that referral into the right service will provide the child with the supports to best suit their needs in a more timely manner.
* Express that the objective is to enable the child to be ‘school ready’ and focus on the skills needed for school.

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| **HOW DO I MAKE A REFERRAL TO IPC HEALTH FOR A CHILD HEALTH SERVICE**  **(Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology and Psychology)?**  Educators and parents are able to contact IPC Health and speak to our Intake services directly to make a referral (Ph: 1300 472 432).  Otherwise, please complete a Referral Form AND a Referral Checklist appropriate to the age of the child. If you would like a copy, please call and ask to speak to our Intake services on 1300 472 432.  IPC Health contact details are:  117-129 Warringa Crescent, Hoppers Crossing, 3029 or 330 Queen St, Altona Meadows, 3028  Phone: 1300 472 432 Phone: 1300 472 432  Fax: 8721 0260 **(For families living in Seabrook)**  Email: [wyndham.intake@ipchealth.com.au](mailto:wyndham.intake@ipchealth.com.au) |

**PAEDIATRICIANS**

IPC Health has four Paediatricians who CAN assess and diagnose children and **WILL see children where there is a suspicion of Autism**.

The services of the Paediatricians will be bulk billed, but a **GP referral is required** at the time of booking and brought in to the first Paediatrician appointment. There is an administrative fee for New Patients and Review Patients and a Did Not Attend (DNA) fee is applied.

The GP referrals can be sent, faxed or emailed but must have the wording ‘ATTENTION: IPC HEALTH PAEDIATRICIAN WYNDHAM VALE’ in the subject line.

**The demand for this service is very high and we are currently only accepting new referrals internally and from a couple of high referring clinics at a limited capacity as of January 2025. Please contact IPC Health before making the referral to ensure we can accept it.**

Email: [paedadmin.wv@ipchealth.com.au](mailto:paedadmin.wv@ipchealth.com.au) Fax: 03 8721 0261

**PAEDIATRIC FELLOWS**

IPC Health has a Paediatric Fellow at Deer Park and Wyndham Vale clinics. They can provide paediatric assessments and consultation, confirm most relevant diagnoses and make recommendations. A **GP referral for a child with Medicare is NOT required to see the Paediatric Fellow.**

For referrals and rescheduling of Paediatric Fellow appointments at Wyndham Vale clinic, you can contact the Royal Children’s Hospital Central Intake on 03 9345 6180 mentioning Outreach CCCH Wyndham Vale, Paediatric Fellow. Referrals can be faxed to the RCH Central Intake team on 03 9345 5034 or emailed to <mailto:>screferrals@rch.org.au

**For more information on the Paediatricians or Paediatric Fellow, call 1300 472 432 Wyndham Vale Super Clinic - 510 Ballan Road, Wyndham Vale, 3024)**

**For referrals and rescheduling of Paediatric Fellow appointments at Deer Park clinic, you can call 1300 472 432. Referrals can be emailed to** [**ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au**](mailto:ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au) **or faxed to 03 8322 0348.**

**Refugee Health Paediatrician and Paediatric Fellow at Deer Park**

IPC Health has a Paediatrician and Paediatric Fellow seeing refugee and asylum seeker children only. A GP referral is required for the Paediatrician. Approximately 6 months waiting period to be seen.

We will accept referrals from Wyndham as long as people are happy to travel to Deer Park for appointments.

Referrals for Deer Park can be emailed to [ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au](mailto:ipchealth@ipchealth.com.au) or faxed to 03 8322 0348.

**CHILD AND FAMILY HUB @WYNDHAM VALE**

This is a free service for families with children up to 8 years in Wyndham.

The Child and Family Hub @Wyndham Vale is located at IPC Health Wyndham Vale campus, 510 Ballan Road, Wyndham Vale.

Get extra parenting support from a range of services under one roof.

Parenting is a great job but sometimes it can be hard, especially if you’re worried about your child or situation. The Child and Family Hub @Wyndham Vale brings together services that can help families going through life challenges, all in the one spot.

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| We can help with things like: | |
| * Parenting | * Respectful relationships |
| * Money and budgeting | * Housing support |
| * Community connections |  |
| The team includes: | |
| * Doctors and nurses | * Refugee health nurses |
| * Maternal child health nurses | * Dieticians |
| * Speech pathologists | * Wellbeing coordinators |
| * Lawyers | * Financial counselling |
| * Paediatricians | * Family violence support |

You may have to join a waiting list. For an appointment, call the team on 03 7068 0150.

The Child and Family Hub @Wyndham Vale also has monthly drop-in sessions for families.

**DENTAL SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) allows for basic dental treatment (up to $1000 in benefits) over a 2-year period for eligible 2-17 year olds (that is if they receive Family Tax Benefit A or other relevant Australian Government payments). Treatment is bulk billed via Medicare.

IPC Health will complete a child’s general dental care at no cost to the parents if the child reaches the $1000 benefit limit. The next available appointment will be offered and can be flexible dependent on school/work schedules.

Note: Specialist treatments such as orthodontic or cosmetic dental work are not covered under CDBS.

Appointments are made by telephoning the closest Dental clinic:

IPC Health St Albans, 1300 472 432   
IPC Health Hoppers Crossing, 1300 472 432  
IPC Health Wyndham Vale, 1300 472 432 – student led clinic only

**REFUGEE HEALTH**

**Who can use this service?**

* This service is available to people from a refugee background and people seeking asylum who live, work or study in Wyndham, Brimbank or Hobsons Bay.

**How can we help?**

* Work with families to access support and navigate the healthcare and social system
* Refer families to a Family Doctor or GP
* Link families in with other service providers

**Services offered:**

* GP clinics
* Allied health: Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapy, Counselling, Child Health, Youth & Women’s Health Nursing among many other services

Please refer to the following link: <https://www.ipchealth.com.au/refugee-health/>

**Payment/Bulk Billed?**

* Refugee Health program is a **free** service
* IPC Health services- some fees based on income

**Who can refer?**

* Anyone can refer people from Refugee or Asylum Seeker like backgrounds
* Community Case worker – supports care coordination and social issues
* Refugee Health Nurse – supports care coordination and health issues

To obtain a Referral Form or book an appointment contact**: 1300 472 432**

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| The Refugee Health Team works from these offices: | |
| **Hoppers Crossing**  117-129 Warringa Crescent | **Sunshine**  Level 1, 499 Ballarat Road |
| **Wyndham Vale**  510 Ballan Road | **Deer Park**  106 Station Road |

**Interpreters are available for FREE – please let them know when booking an appointment.**

**For more info, contact:** Jayde White (Refugee Health Nurse & Program Coordinator) on the above number.