

15 May 2018

Pop-up doctors check Hervey Bay's health

Doctors will stage a pop-up health clinic at the Hervey Bay Urangan Pier Park Community Markets on Saturday 19 May to offer free health checks and identify people at risk of obesity-related diseases and other illnesses.

The recently released Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service draft strategic plan revealed one quarter of the region's population was over 65, obese, had diabetes and were risky drinkersⁱ.

AMA Queensland Council of General Practice Representative Dr Nick Yim said the Wide Bay HHS report also found 16 per cent of the region's adult population were also smokers and there were high rates of hospital admissions for chronic diseases.

"These risk factors place enormous demand on the region's health services and are a wake-up call to people living in the Hervey Bay area to see their GP for a check-up," Dr Yim said.

Dr Yim said nearly two-thirds of men and more than half of women aged 15 – 64 visited their GP only a few times a year, or lessⁱⁱ, and 20 per cent of Queenslanders did not get to their GP every yearⁱⁱⁱ, running the risk of undiagnosed health problems.

AMA Queensland's mobile Health Hubs are regularly held across the state to raise awareness of the importance of undergoing regular health checks with a GP.

FREE HEALTH CHECK

Local doctors Dr Nick Yim, Dr Lesley Manski and Dr Matthew Cozier will be on site to assess blood pressure, BMI and lung function and to offer advice on healthy living.

Kim Simpson from Queensland Respiratory Services will be checking market-goers for asthma and other lung conditions, including those linked to smoking.

WHEN: 7am - 1pm on Saturday 19 May

WHERE: Urangan Pier Park Community Markets, 6/8 Pilot Street, Urangan

MEDIA CONTACTS: Tammy Shipperley, Sequel PR – 0403 090 914 or 07 3251 8111;
Chiara Lesèvre, AMA Queensland - 0419 735 641 or 07 3872 2209.

ⁱ https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/703806/0030_WBHHS_DRAFT_Strategic-Plan-2018-22_Document_WEB-R.pdf

ⁱⁱ <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4343.0Main%20Features32016?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4343.0&issue=2016&num=&view>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4839.0main+features32012-13>