

Media release

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**Urgent Care Clinic to take pressure off Northern Beaches
Hospital Emergency Department**

The Federal Member for Mackellar, Dr Sophie Scamps MP, has welcomed the Government's election commitment of a new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) in Dee Why that will take pressure off Northern Beaches Hospital's Emergency Department (ED).

The Dee Why UCC will provide bulk billed care for urgent non-life-threatening conditions, seven days a week, for extended hours, with no appointment needed.

The announcement follows calls from Dr Scamps for another UCC in Mackellar to boost public healthcare services for the Northern Beaches community. The Dee Why UCC is in addition to the already established Mona Vale Urgent Care Centre.

Dr Scamps calls on the federal Opposition to match the Government's commitment to expand UCCs.

The location of Dee Why was chosen based on Department of Health and Aged Care and Australian Bureau of Statistics data, particularly looking at locations which will take pressure off busy EDs.

"This new Urgent Care Clinic in Dee Why will help to ensure the Northern Beaches community has access to urgent, quality free healthcare when they need it. It will mean shorter wait times for those less urgent cases that would otherwise be seen in the ED," Dr Scamps said.

"The provision of bulk billed care at this new UCC will enable individuals and families in Mackellar to seek urgent medical attention without the burden of financial cost, which many in our community can ill afford".

The new UCC in Dee Why and the new Youth Mental Health Hub in Brookvale, announced last week, are a result of the work Dr Scamps has undertaken to expand public healthcare services on the Northern Beaches.

“As a former GP and ED doctor, I know firsthand the importance of meeting our community’s healthcare needs and have been fighting non-stop for this during my first term in Parliament,” Dr Scamps said.

“These new services are vital initiatives that expand public healthcare services on the Northern Beaches to ensure our community can urgently access affordable, safe and quality healthcare,” Dr Scamps said.

The exact location and provider of the Dee Why UCC will be determined through an independent commissioning process to be conducted by the Northern Sydney Primary Health Network and State Government. This will include an Expression of Interest process that will invite existing GP clinics to scale up to be a UCC, with funding provided by the Federal Government to do so.

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For media inquiries and interviews with Dr Sophie Scamps MP, please contact Georgia Steele: media@sophiescamps.com.au or 0481 009 636.