

After Hours Services essential in the Christmas period

20th December 2017 – The Christmas period is a busy time for many and that extends to the Emergency Department (ED). During this period, Marathon Health wants the community to recognise that the ED should be kept for emergencies and should someone require urgent but non-emergency care, they are able to utilise the After Hours GP Clinic and Telephone Service.

The Dubbo After Hours GP Clinic provides medical attention for patients who are seeking urgent treatment and are unable to wait to see their regular practitioner during routine hours. Alternatively, the After Hours Telephone Service will connect patients to a local GP who will be able to offer advice and assistance which may save the trip to the Clinic itself. Both services are free for people with a Medicare Card.

Jane Blundell, Marathon Health Manager of After Hours and Aged Care, says these services will be critical over the Christmas period and encourages anyone who is unsure of the urgency of their situation to phone the Telephone Service and ask the GP for advice.

“Our After Hours services direct people to the most appropriate care which, during this period, can be hard to access. We really want to stress that the ED needs to remain as the solution for emergency care and by presenting to the After Hours services we are able to save crucial resources for the ED and potentially save lives.”

The Telephone Service will be operational throughout the Christmas period including 24hrs on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. The After Hours GP Clinic will be open Saturday, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, Saturday 30th December, New Year’s Eve between the hours of 6pm and 6pm at the Myall Street Entrance of Dubbo Base Hospital.

To access the telephone service simply call **6884 2100** (Mon-Fri 6pm-8pm, Saturday from 12pm and Sunday and all public holidays 24hrs)

Marathon Health gratefully acknowledges the Western NSW Primary Health Network for the funding of this service. For more information about Marathon Health and its services, go to: www.marathonhealth.com.au.

-ENDS-

About:

Marathon Health coordinates and delivers the best healthcare in country Australia. The Bathurst and Dubbo After Hours services are funded by the Western NSW Primary Health Network. The Bathurst After Hours General Practice Clinic (BAHGPC) is a walk-in clinic based at the Bathurst Base Hospital Heritage Building. The Clinic is open from 3pm to 7pm on weekends and public holidays and offers a bulk-billing service. The telephone service is available weeknights from 6pm – 8am, Saturdays from 12pm, and all day Sundays and Public Holidays. Please call 6333 2888.

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