



**Date** 22 May 2012  
**Subject** Free Kwinana health clinic celebrates its first birthday

The Kwinana health clinic has celebrated its one year anniversary of providing free health and wellbeing services in the region.

Funded by nib foundation through a partnership with St Patrick's Community Support Centre, the service is a two-year pilot project for the town, which continually ranks as one of the most disadvantaged communities in Western Australia.

Designed to help address many of the critical health issues facing the region, the clinic provides access to immediate health support for the homeless and disadvantaged.

Available at no cost to residents who hold a Centrelink Health Care Card, pensioner or concession card, the Kwinana health clinic provides a holistic approach to health care focusing on mental, emotional and physical elements of well-being. Current therapies and services include: chiropractic; reflexology; massage; counselling and tenancy advice. An art program also operates fortnightly and volunteers and support for the service is increasing across the local community.

Chief Operations Officer, Michael Piu, said the free health service has been a welcome addition to the local community:

"During the first 12 months, more than 850 consultations were held reflecting a significant demand for these services in the region," said Mr Piu.

"Many people living in remote or low socio economic areas such as Kwinana face a range of issues including service availability, transport and psycho-social issues which renders them unwilling or unable to engage with mainstream health and well-being services.

"By providing this free allied health service, we are achieving not only better access to basic health services and support, but also education as to key health issues in the community, which in both cases improves health outcomes for individuals and the community as a whole."

Marlene Humphreys, a local resident said the clinic had provided her with much-needed access to allied health services that she hadn't previously been able to afford:

"I've been living on a low income for many years and have learnt to cope and budget really well, but I could never afford these health services," Mrs Humphreys said.

"I'm now able to access services which I really need such as counselling and chiropractic."

nib foundation Chairman, Terry Lawler, said the Kwinana health clinic is providing much-needed access to vital health services in the region.

"While the current health system adequately caters for a large sector of the community, there are still gaps where certain members of the community cannot access essential health services, education, training or support," Mr Lawler said.

"This funding will allow Kwinana's health issues to be addressed in a long-term and sustainable way," he added.

The Kwinana health clinic operates on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 12pm and is located at the Medina Hall, Harley Street, Medina. Health Professional volunteers are invited to contact St Patrick's to register their interest and support.

**For more information contact:**

Renea Jaeger  
nib Corporate Affairs  
[r.jaeger@nib.com.au](mailto:r.jaeger@nib.com.au)  
02 4914 1739  
0402 376 835  
nibfoundation.com.au

Lisa Garside  
St Patrick's Community Support Centre  
[lgarside@stpats.com.au](mailto:lgarside@stpats.com.au)  
08 9430 4159  
0403609439  
stpats.com.au