NEW WOMEN’S HEALTH CENTRE FOR TAMWORTH

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Tamworth has been named as a location for one of three new women’s health centres in regional NSW, as part of a joint proposal by Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre and SOS Women’s Services, with the support of Women’s Health NSW. The report recommends that the NSW Government fund new women’s health centres in Broken Hill, Griffith and Tamworth.

SOS spokeswoman Roxanne McMurray said there have been no new women’s health centres since the 1980s and the demand for health services was expected to nearly double in the next 20 years.

"The NSW Government has put a lot of really great work into health planning in the last couple of years with its State Health Plan and Rural Health Plan, and we thought it was time to get more women GPs and services into areas with a real need.

“The health centre will be based on the same model as existing centres – to provide quality, low-cost health care to ensure health care is accessible and affordable to all women. It will also provide regular outreach clinics to surrounding areas. The centres are based on the Government’s excellent HealthOne model for multidisciplinary health care, providing everything under the one roof.

“Any new centres would also become part of the SOS proposal to establish Domestic Violence Prevention Clinics at every women’s health centre in NSW. Due to the high number of incidents in Tamworth, the report recommends the clinic operate several days a week to help take the pressure of the local refuge which receives a huge number of calls for assistance each year.

Tamworth also has high numbers of preventable hospital admissions and low-birthweight babies which a women’s health centre could help reduce, and we’re really pleased it’s received community support.”

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