



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## Monday 12 March 2018

## Hunter Primary Care celebrates new beginnings while working towards Indigenous health equality

Hunter Primary Care will officially open its doors at its new office premises at Warabrook on Wednesday, to coincide with National Close the Gap Day this week.

Hunter Primary Care CEO, Brenda Ryan, said the event would be an opportunity to educate staff, external stakeholders and community members about the importance of improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"Dr Anita Watts will speak about National Close the Gap Day, which aims to bring awareness about the health and life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Australia," Ms Ryan said.

"It's alarming to know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can expect to live 10–17 years less than other Australians. At Hunter Primary Care, we are committed to reconciliation and continually work towards making a difference in closing the gap in primary health care.

"Our Aboriginal Outreach team and other staff work closely with Indigenous members of our Hunter community to provide vital health and wellbeing services including Yudhilidin – a recoveryorientated care coordination service; Care Coordination for those living with a chronic illness and cultural appropriate psychology and mental health services."

Ms Ryan said that Hunter Primary Care's move from King Street to a purpose-built office at Warabrook was an exciting time for the Group and signified a new era for the well-established health care organisation, which will continue to grow and expand its quality health services to better meet the needs of the Hunter community.

"We look forward to recognising the importance of National Close the Gap Day as we celebrate a new beginning for our organisation and pay our respects to the Awabakal traditional custodians of the land we work on at Warabrook," Ms Ryan said.

Find out more at <u>hunterprimarycare.com.au</u>

At Hunter Primary Care, our vision is to provide effective primary health care that meets the needs of our community. We Listen. Care. Connect.

For interview and photo opportunities contact Katie Vullo on 02 4935 3171 or 0407 956 861.

## We listen. Care. Connect.

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