



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Antenatal Care Available At Sunraysia Community Health Services**

4 September 2017

---

Sunraysia Community Health Service is excited to announce the provision of antenatal care to the women and families of Sunraysia. Dr John Gale and Dr Jane Neyland along with midwives Felicity Cummins and Amy Lehmann have teamed together to provide the full spectrum of care from conception, leading up to the birth.

Antenatal care is an essential part of pregnancy and should start as soon as the pregnancy is confirmed. Receiving quality care in pregnancy is one of the best ways to promote a healthy birth outcome. SCHS provides free pregnancy testing and early pregnancy planning from the moment a test is positive.

“Sunraysia Community Health Service Antenatal Services acknowledges that pregnancy is a crucial time to promote healthy behaviours, learn parenting skills, explore social issues and offer specific support”, said Mrs Simone Heald, CEO, Sunraysia Community Health Services. “Good antenatal care links a woman and her family with the health system, providing education, social, emotional and physical support in pregnancy, directly and indirectly affecting the unborn child”.

Sunraysia Community Health Midwives and GP services are committed to helping to achieve desired outcomes for women and their babies by tailoring the care specific to the needs of the woman, her unborn child and her extended family. We aim to support and guide parents-to-be in an open and nurturing environment.

The Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies program is offered as an extension of the antenatal service by providing outreach support to pregnant women with complex health, welfare and social needs who have difficulty accessing antenatal services or are in need of additional supports. It aims to address these needs by providing an innovative, flexible model of care to be able to engage with and support women in an environment that they feel familiar and comfortable with.

Mrs Heald advised that “Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies delivers important health promotion messages and facilitates important links to other health services during pregnancy”.

The Antenatal Service is funded by Medicare and all pregnant women are eligible for this service. “We at Sunraysia Community Health look forward to welcoming pregnant women into the service and delivering this warm, friendly, holistic choice in antenatal care”, said Mrs Heald.

**END**

Media enquiries to:



Shelley Faulks  
Clinic Programs Manager  
Phone: 0408595585