



MEDIA RELEASE

Successful COVID vaccination rates prompts scale back in SCHS clinics.

24 June 2022

Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS) will make some changes to COVID vaccination services in Mildura following a successful vaccination campaign that helped increase third dose vaccination rates to 70%.

Saturday, June 25 will see SCHS operate its last static vaccination clinic at Thirteenth Street.

State Government supported COVID-19 vaccination will continue in Mildura and will operate via an outreach model in the short-term, in a reduced capacity.

SCHS Chief Executive Officer, Simone Heald said Saturday's clinic will mark the end of an era for the health service, which has administered 19,000 vaccinations since the clinic opened in May 2021.

"We haven't often had moments to reflect over the past 12 months but the vaccination effort is something our community and health service should be extremely proud of," she said.

"We've had lots of contributions to our vaccination effort but we couldn't have reached the 70% third dose milestone without a willing community, so thank you."

Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU) and SCHS have held 38 pop-up vaccination clinics over the past four months in a bid improve access to the vaccine for community members who could not access our mainstream service.

This, in combination with existing vaccination services, has helped administer almost 20,000 doses since early 2022, increasing the third dose vaccination rate by 12 per cent. One in three people in Mildura have now received their COVID booster shot. Simone would also like to acknowledge the commitment of the staff at SCHS to provide these clinics. Over the time of the pandemic, all staff of SCHS have continually adapted their workloads to provide services such as this to the community – thank you to the team at SCHS.

Acting LMPHU Director, Dr Daryl Kroschel said with demand for vaccination gradually decreasing, it was important to match resources accordingly.

"We want to retain a vaccinating presence in Mildura, which will come in the form of a reduced capacity pop-up style clinic," he said.

"GPs and pharmacists have done the bulk of the vaccinating since February and they're still vaccinating. Now is a sensible time to reduce SCHS clinic operations.



“Thank you to SCHS for a fantastic vaccination partnership. Your willingness to take on the task of vaccinating your community has been admirable,” acknowledged Dr Kroschel.

A full list of existing vaccination providers in Mildura can be found here:

https://www.murrayphn.org.au/vaccination_nw/

Further details of the SCHS outreach clinic will be provided when they are finalised.

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