

30 June 2023

headspace Hawkesbury plans well underway with a site now secured

In an exciting milestone, a suitable site has now officially been secured for headspace Hawkesbury which is due to open in December. The Centre will be located in the Richmond Mall complex at 120 Francis Street, Richmond.

Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, is working closely with Uniting NSW.ACT to deliver the service. Wentworth Healthcare CEO, Lizz Reay, said a lot of consideration went into finding a suitable site that could deliver a full-service centre, while at the same time being in a location that is easily accessible to young people.

“I would like to thank Uniting NSW.ACT for their hard work in securing this site so quickly. Finding an appropriate and accessible building in the Hawkesbury, that met all the criteria needed to open a full-service centre, and that would allow us to open the doors within our planned timeframes, was a challenge,” said Ms Reay.

“The Richmond Mall complex is a great location that is easily accessible for young people as it is close to public transport, local schools, shops and cafes. Securing this site is a step in the right direction and allows us to remain on track with opening as planned in December 2023,” she said.

In addition, with the help of community consultation, Uniting NSW.ACT plan to find a second permanent site in Windsor to facilitate a headspace Outreach service 2-3 days a week.

Federal member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman, said “This is a really significant milestone in ensuring young people across the Hawkesbury can easily access mental health services. The Richmond location, in the old Priceline store, is good location for public transport and great for parking.”

“It’s been a long journey since I first stated advocating for a headspace in the Hawkesbury back in 2013 and I’m thrilled that Hawkesbury Headspace will be up and running by the end of the year. I encourage young people to get involved with the consultation process to make sure the service works best for them,” she said.

Over the next couple of months, Uniting NSW.ACT will continue to engage and consult with community members, particularly young people in the Hawkesbury, to ensure the site is youth friendly and creates a safe and welcoming environment.

“We are interested in hearing what needs to be in place for the service to be welcoming, easy to navigate and youth friendly. The approach will involve discussions with young people, their families and community stakeholders, both online and in education and community settings across the Hawkesbury area,” said Head of Uniting Recovery, Uniting NSW. ACT, Chantal Nagib.

The consultation process to commence co-designing the Centre will commence in early July. Young people and the community are encouraged to participate and offer their insights on how headspace Hawkesbury will work best for them.



If you would like to contribute to the design and functionality of the Centre or stay informed of any upcoming opportunities, register your interest via HealthHub at <https://healthhub.nbmphn.com.au/register> and subscribe to receive notifications from the headspace Hawkesbury page <https://healthhub.nbmphn.com.au/headspace-hawkesbury->

“To ensure those who would like to are able to have their say, there will also be open community consultation opportunities, an online survey, and people can even come and say hello to the co-design team at Hawkesbury Fest in August,” she said.

While the centre is being established, a reminder that there is currently headspace Outreach Services which hold weekly sessions every Thursday from **10:00am to 5:00pm** at **North Richmond Community Centre**, and every Friday from **10:00am to 5:00pm** at the **Old Hawkesbury Hospital**. Bookings are preferred and can be made by requesting the Hawkesbury Outreach Service through headspace Penrith on **1800 477 626**. No referral is needed, and services are free.

Support is also available through the Head to Health Pop Up Hawkesbury service via appointment, Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm. Bookings can be made by calling **1800 595 212**. No referral is needed, and this service is also free.