

MEDIA RELEASE
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COMMUNITY GP LAUNCHES FREE ONLINE GP CONSULTATION SERVICE FOR YOUTH

Community GP, a not for profit GP service, will this Wednesday 6 May launch free virtual consultations focusing on adolescent mental health. '*Community GP Connect*' will offer bulk-billed telehealth and telephone consultations aimed at 13 - 25 year olds across Australia.

Community GP assists South Australian communities in need with a focus on school and aged-care outreach clinics, youth health programs and the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Founder and CEO, Dr Lane Hinchcliffe recognises that access to mental health services is a longstanding issue for adolescents in South Australia and across the nation, well before COVID-19 Pandemic, but it is now more prevalent than ever.

“At the moment access to doctors has been hugely reduced – there are less face to face appointments. It is a real crisis point and we want to offer a solution.”

“This is a unique opportunity for youth and adolescents to have a consultation with a GP from home.”

“We want teenagers and youth to know it is ok not to be ok at this time. Schools and universities can be isolating environments and with the sudden shift to online education and cancelled sports and experiences where does it leave mental health?”

“At the moment there is a reported increase in people suffering from stress, anxiety and depressive symptoms due to financial stress, job loss and insecurity, social isolation due to the strict lockdown measures, change in routine and the uncertainty of when this will end.”

In particular, school students have been hugely affected and there is uncertainty around their experiences such as school formals, school sports and camps or trips all being cancelled or postponed.

“They are an age group who are going through so many changes in life not only physically but their mental health, so having this access to a GP is vital,” Dr Lane concluded.

LAUNCH DATE AND BOOKING INFORMATION:

Community GP Connect is launching Wednesday 6 May. Bookings can be made via www.communitygp.org.au for appointments

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Media enquiries: Belinda Petersen 0402 358 000 belinda@bppr.com.au
Elly Mitchell 0408 342 604 Elly@bppr.com.au