

# Ballan District Health & Care Update

## March 2020

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### **Ballan Childcare Centre**

The future of Ballan Childcare Centre is assured, thanks to a new owner and provider, Mrs Navjeet Kaur, Director of ANM Business Services.

This change in ownership allows the Centre to continue providing a successful service to Ballan and the surrounding districts.

Ballan District Health & Care will support clients, staff and the new owner throughout the transition to ensure continuity of quality childcare services for the local community.

How will the **transition work**?

### **Timeframe**

Mrs Kaur has signed the contract of sale and the process has begun to transfer ownership away from Ballan District Health & Care (BDHC). Ballan Childcare Centre will continue to operate in the usual way, offering high quality childcare services to families of Ballan and the surrounding districts. BDHC will support all childcare staff and the buyer during the sale transition period – an 11 day period ending on 16 March 2020.

### **Staff**

The qualified and dedicated staff are central to the warm and educational environment of Ballan Childcare Centre. It is a priority of the new owner to meet in person and support current staff during the transition period, with staff reporting to Mrs Kaur from 16 March 2020 onwards.

### **Services**

Ballan Childcare Centre will continue to offer the same high standard of care and education within the current learning groups, including babies (4 months to 2 years), toddlers (2 to 3 years), pre-kinder (3 to 4 years) and kinder (4 to 5 years).

### **Opening hours**

Ballan Childcare Centre is open every weekday from 6:30am to 6:00pm.

### **Catering**

BDHC has committed to continue our catering service for the Childcare Centre for at least the next three months.

***We will continue to support clients, staff and the provider throughout the transition to ensure the community continues to receive quality childcare services.***

# Ballan District Health & Care Update

## March 2020 continued

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### **GP Clinic – Recruitment**

Our GP services are central to health delivery in Ballan. It is our priority to ensure that the BDHC GP Clinic has a robust and stable workforce to service the community into the future.

We welcomed two new GPs to the Clinic in December 2019.

We are pleased to announce that we have further bolstered our doctor numbers with the addition of two more GPs in February 2020. Furthermore, we aim to increase this number as we progress into 2020.

The BDHC GP Clinic currently has five doctors on staff, including:

- Dr Samuel Inwang
- Dr Sonya Rutherford
- Dr Simone Stanton-Castillo (Registrar)
- Dr Tze-Jian (TJ) Tan
- Dr May Thu (Registrar)

We will provide more updates on this positive news for our community via our website and Facebook page in the coming weeks.

At the end of January 2020, Dr Rakhi Basu and Dr Min Kim departed BDHC to pursue other opportunities.

At the same time, Dr Sonya Rutherford, who had been working one day a week while she relocated to Ballan, increased her hours to consult up to four days a week.

Dr Rutherford has a keen interest in preventative medicine, with other areas of interest including nutrition and mental health care.

### **GP Clinic – Opening Hours**

In line with our commitment to meet the health care needs of the community, BDHC has extended its GP Clinic opening hours on Saturdays.

The GP Clinic is now open every Saturday from **9:00am to 4:00pm**.

This is wonderful news for our community and illustrates our commitment to delivering contemporary, viable services where there is demand.

The weekday opening hours for the GP Clinic remain the same – **8:00am to 8:00pm**.

# Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your feedback so far on these important updates, the majority of which has been very positive. There have also been some good questions and we wanted to answer these.

Questions from the Community	Board Commitments
<b>Ballan Childcare Centre</b>	
Why has the Ballan Childcare Centre been sold to a new provider?	In 2012, the Ballan Childcare Centre was on the verge of closure. BDHC saw the potential in this important community asset, and stepped in to purchase and invest. Occupancy was at a low 40% and much work was needed to grow the Centre into the warm and educational environment it is today. With the help of our qualified and experienced team members, occupancy levels are now over 95% and it is time for BDHC to step away from the business and pass the reins to a new, passionate childcare provider.
Will the new provider lease the Childcare Centre building, as BDHC has done?	Yes, Mrs Kaur plans to lease the Childcare Centre building and grounds.
Which services does the Childcare Centre provide?	The current learning groups and rooms include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babies (4 months to 2 years)</li> <li>• Toddlers (2 to 3 years)</li> <li>• Pre-kinder (3 to 4 years)</li> <li>• Kinder (4 to 5 years)</li> </ul>
Will any of the Childcare Centre services change?	Ballan Childcare Centre will continue to offer the same high standard of care and education within the current learning groups.
Does the new Childcare Centre provider have any plans to improve the Centre in the future?	Mrs Kaur plans to renovate the outdoor area to improve this important play space for the children.  Any upgrade plans and associated timing will be communicated to Childcare Centre staff and families, as appropriate.
Where is the Childcare Centre located?	88a Simpson Street, Ballan.
What are the Childcare Centre opening hours?	Ballan Childcare Centre is open every weekday, from 6:30am to 6:00pm.

## Frequently Asked Questions continued

Questions from the Community	Board Commitments
<b>BDHC GP Clinic</b>	
When can I see a GP?	The opening hours for the BDHC GP Clinic are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekdays: <b>8:00am to 8:00pm</b></li> <li>• Saturdays: <b>9:00am to 4:00pm</b></li> </ul>
How long will it take me to see a GP?	We have bolstered our doctor numbers with the addition of two new GPs in February 2020. Furthermore, we aim to increase this number as we progress into 2020. These positive changes will ensure more timely and consistent access to local GPs.
What are the alternatives outside of the GP Clinic hours?	The BDHC GP Clinic is open from 8:00am to 8:00pm on weekdays, and 9:00am to 4:00pm on Saturdays. After this time, the community can utilise services provided at Djerriwarrh Health Services (Bacchus Marsh), Ballarat Health Services and Central Highlands Rural Health (Daylesford). All emergency cases will continue to be taken to the closest and most clinically appropriate health service.

*The Board is committed to ensuring that any concerns or questions are addressed. Much assessment and consideration has gone into ensuring that these decisions set up BDHC in the best way for the future.*

More information about these updates, including the Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on our website at [ballanhealth.com.au/news](http://ballanhealth.com.au/news)