



Bridge Street Surgery

RICHMOND

Wednesday 15 January 2025

Media Statement

BRIDGE STREET SURGERY RICHMOND TO CLOSE

The Bridge Street Surgery Richmond is an independently owned and operated general practice (GP) that will close at the end of February 2025.

Dr Robyn Mathews opened her solo GP practice in January 2019, providing primary health care to the Richmond community and surrounds.

While Dr Mathews has grown the practice over the past six years to include two additional part-time GPs, she has had to make the tough decision to close her doors.

"I have had to make this difficult decision because of the increasing costs to run a small independent GP practice; modest Federal Government increases to Medicare rebates to support patients to pay for their healthcare, the inability to secure long-term GPs, and more recently, the failure to ensure state government funding to support employing a nurse practitioner and to upgrade practice facilities.

"Demand for healthcare in the region is growing, and without the ability to secure long-term GPs and the financial model to support the business, my staff and I are burning out.

"Knowing the inability of patients to pay an increasing gap fee for their healthcare and the difficulty for patients to access general practice services elsewhere, I have not made this decision without trying my hardest to make this practice work.

"The reality is that with rising small business costs combined with recent modest increases in Medicare funding after years of freezing the patient rebate across successive federal governments, this small surgery is financially unsustainable and cannot attract long-term GPs.

"I was hopeful of receiving state government funding to support the employment of a nurse practitioner and much-needed upgrades to our IT infrastructure to help with the workload and the efficiency of the business but was unsuccessful. This was the final straw to break the camel's back.

"I and my staff are sorry to see this practice close. But I was left with no option.

"We will do our best to support our patients over the next six weeks and to ensure the continuity of their care by facilitating the transfer of their medical records to another practice of their choosing.

"My patients and those of Drs Bates and Hodgman have the option to continue to see us in another general practice facility should they wish to. We don't want to see our patients left without a GP.

"I thank my colleagues, my staff and the community for their understanding and support."

Dr Hodgman and Dr Mathews will be practising at Eastern Shore Doctors Bellerive, and Dr Bates will continue to practice at City Doctors and Travel Clinic in Hobart.>>>ENDS