Link Health and Community provides a large range of medical, health and support services that are aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of all residents living in and around the Monash area. Our services include dental, doctors, allied health and counselling and our programs are developed in partnership with the local community to meet their health needs. We aim to provide accessible and affordable health and support services to everyone and we believe that a healthy mind and body creates a healthy community. We are a not-for-profit health service provider funded by both the State and Commonwealth Governments and provide services for free or a set fee based on your income. All our profits go back into improving and expanding services for you.

Services for Healthier Communities

1300 552 509 | www.linkhc.org.au
Link Health and Community

AT A GLANCE

Link Health and Community sees clients at four of its five sites and many of our services are also provided in clients’ homes. Each year we see on average around 200 people a day for community health services and about 300 a day for dental services. The majority of our clients are the 70-79 year age group however our dental services saw a lot of children up to the age of 12 years. We also outreach dental services to schools and kindergartens throughout the City of Monash. Our oldest client last year was 102 and they received in home podiatry services, what our youngest at just 2 months saw our infant speech pathologist. A full copy of Link Health and Community’s financial report can be found at www.linkhc.org.au/index.php/about/reports.

HEALTH PROMOTION

Health Promotion activities focus on improving access to healthy food and preventing violence against women. Link HC, with the City of Monash Food Council, has developed and distributed the Think on 2-5 vegetables. This message aims to increase community awareness of sources of fruit and vegetables in Monash. Approximately 2000 copies of the posters were distributed across Monash, Link HC also contributed to the City of Monash Food Think Tank, a partnership involving local government and community health that aims to improve access to healthy food across the Inner East.

DENTAL SERVICES

Oral health significantly impacts on people’s quality of life. When children have poor oral health, they may experience a range of difficulties to eat, speak or sleep. They are likely to become frustrated, miss out on school days and may avoid visiting or taking improving the oral health related quality of life in children is a priority for the Oral Health Team. We aim to reduce the rate of dental decay, to treat any oral disease early, to empower children to visit the dentist regularly and to open access to dental care.

VOLUNTEERING

Link Health and Community has a very active volunteer workforce. In 2014-2015 we had 339 volunteers with ages ranging from 17 to 87. Volunteers come from 30 different countries and 46 different professions. The majority of volunteers are aged 18-69, however a significant number above 80 are aged 70-87 years. We also have 300 or so male volunteers who make up about 16% of the volunteers in our organisation. Volunteering programs include: Administration, Community Visitors, Drivers, Health Promotion, LinkPETS and Prevention.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

As part of our commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the community, we have commenced three new programs for children aged 0-12 years. Power Program meets at Power Neighbourhood houses helping families with young children gather in a family, informal environment allowing them to connect with one of our speech pathologists. Baby Massage encourages new mums to engage with their infant in a quiet, relaxing environment using techniques to enhance the bonding process, important to a baby’s mobility and safety program for school age children. It brings parents and children together in a safe environment, learning together new ways to approach a healthy relationship. This program is headed by Commonwealth Bank community grants.

ALLIED SERVICES

Mental Health services

We continue deliver new and innovative options to better support the community. Our new Diabetics Renner Service sees clients for an annual review, providing 3 consecutive 30 minute appointments with a Dietician, Diabetes Nurse Educator and Podiatrist. This initiative ensures we are responsive to our clients in an integrated, coordinated and systematic way.

New Improvements include the development of two public forums (a seminar and an incursion in schools); the new vocal therapy program; regular policy visits into groups programs and a partnership between the occupational therapy and the oral health teams. To support the occupational therapy waitlist and demand management strategies, staff are now provided with mobile technology, reducing appointment time and providing increased capacity to see more clients.

CHAI lift out in the Leader complex health needs of our community.

We work with our members, clients and the community to ensure that our health services meet the ever changing and increasingly complex health needs of our community.

We aim to develop and maintain high quality programs and services that are person-centred, culturally safe and tailored to meet the needs of our clients.

To this end this year we will reach some 70,000 households in the City of Monash rather than the traditional 50,000 people.

We hope that you enjoy reading about the great things we are doing to provide “Services for Healthier Communities”.

Message from the Chair & CEO

We are pleased to present Link Health and Community 2014/15 Annual Report in a format that is easy to read.

We know that it is an unusual way for an organisation to be an annual report. It is part of our renewed community engagement strategy.

Link is committed to working with our members, clients and the community to ensure that our health services meet the ever changing and increasingly complex health needs of our community.

On this basis we lift our services to reach more than 70,000 households.

This year we will continue to provide our usual program of services, including;

- Community Health
- Dental Health
- Allied Health Services
- Health Promotion
- Volunteering
- CHAI
- CHAI lift out
- CHAI lift out in the Leader
- All members of our services are also provided in clients’ homes.

Link Health and Community"
The 2014/15 year has been one of change. Our long standing CEO, Gregg Nichols, retired after 10 years. Gregg left a wonderful legacy to this organisation with purpose built sites in Chadstone, Clayton, Glen Waverley and Oakleigh. All of these facilities provide a springboard into the future. This springboard has been used to expand our services to include Doctors for the first time at Clayton and Oakleigh and hearing services at Oakleigh. We have also been able to integrate our services more successfully with the creation of a Children’s Services Hub at Oakleigh and a Youth Service Hub at Glen Waverley.

This year we changed our name from MonashLink Community Health to Link Health and Community. The name change was a reflection of our commitment to the provision of Health Services that concentrate on helping people overcome chronic and complex health issues. It also reflects our commitment to working with community organisations and individuals, to provide long term solutions to health problems by delivering prevention and promotion activities. We will continue to work on our connection with the community over the next 12 months.

Finally we would like to give a big thank you to our Board members, the staff, and volunteers of the service for all the hard work and dedication they have given over the past twelve months. We know our community is a healthier place for their work.