



MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
18 October 2021**

SUNNY STREET OPENS NEW CLINIC IN MAROOCHYDORE

Sunny Street will officially open their new clinic in Maroochydore aimed at providing much needed medical and health support to those who are living rough.

From a start up to now employing 35 staff and a volunteer workforce of over 150, Sunny Street are ready to start the next chapter with the first of their Sunny Street centres taking patients next week.

Offering priority care and support this centre, located in Baden Powell Street, will not only provide much needed medical support such as chronic disease management, wound care, mental health plans, vaccinations, and other GP services to vulnerable patients, but will also be a safe place where conversations can be had.

Co-Founder and Director of Nursing, Sonia Martin said, “In addition to providing all the usual kinds of health services you would expect at a health clinic, our teams are also trained to connect with our patients, offering kindness and hope when, for many of our patients, there is a lot of sadness and despair.

“This clinic is aimed at improving access to health care for vulnerable people who often have very few choices available to them and we plan to replicate this model all over Australia.”

Patients attending the clinics will receive more than just health care, with the team set up to provide meals, warm clothes and other basics that may not otherwise be available to people who are experiencing homelessness.

Another way Co-Founders, Nurse Sonia Martin and Dr Nova Evans are changing how homeless people experience healthcare is in the actual design and fit out of the clinic.



Local indigenous artist Shauna Hill was commissioned to create a bright, welcoming mural on the entrance to the clinic, and instead of an intimidating reception room, people will be greeted in a space that is designed to put them at ease immediately.

The Sunny Street centre will include four Community Connection Pods, the first of which is being funded by Unitywater's community partnerships program.

Unitywater Executive Manager for Customer and Community Katherine Gee said the funding will help provide a safe, confidential space for vulnerable community members to be heard and cared for at the centre.

"We are pleased to strengthen our partnership with Sunny Street through the community connection pod funding and support their expertise, energy and passion in taking care of our community," Ms Gee said.

"We live and work in the community and want to help our community thrive. Our partnership extends beyond funding - Sunny Street's goals are our goals, and we support them how we can, including through our Unitywater volunteer program where our team members help others in the community.

"Sunny Street's amazing work aligns with the causes that are important to Unitywater customers, including homelessness, youth, the prevention of family and domestic violence and mental health."

The clinic in Maroochydore will be officially opened by Mayor Mark Jamieson on Tuesday 19 October and the media are invited to attend.

About Sunny Street

Sunny Street is a mobile volunteer medical outreach service designed specifically for those who are experiencing homelessness and vulnerability and have barriers accessing health care. This can be one of the most trying and confronting times for someone in this situation.

Through supportive conversations, Sunny Street provides non-judgemental holistic support to their patients. They aim to break down the barriers to accessing health care and empower individuals to make informed choices about their health and wellbeing. They drive sustainable change by educating and involving our community and patients in service design to ensure they are delivering responsive and respectful health care.

Co-founded by Dr Nova Evans and Sonia Martin, Sunny Street is a Social Enterprise & supported by volunteers. Sunny Street is looking outside the traditional healthcare models to deliver innovative solutions to complex issues and drive sustainable change.



END RELEASE

MEDIA OPP

WHEN: TUESDAY 19 October – 10:00am

WHERE: 4/54 Baden Powell Street, Maroochydore

WHO: Mayor Mark Jamieson will officially open the Sunny Street Maroochydore Centre and cut the ribbon

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Jennifer Swaine at 0438 952 830 or email jennifer@conciergesunshinecoast.com.au.

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