

MEDIA RELEASE



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Geeveston Medical Centre receives top accreditation honour

Geeveston received a further health boost today when the Geeveston Medical Centre received the award of accreditation, demonstrating the quality and safety of their practice.

The medical centre received the top honour from Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited (AGPAL), a leading provider in accreditation services.

AGPAL Chair Dr Richard Choong said the accreditation award shows that the practice makes a significant investment in quality on a day-to-day basis from the top down.

"Achieving accreditation is a major achievement for any practice and it is a clear demonstration that the Geeveston Medical Centre is seeking to improve their level of service to both patients and the community," he said.

"Practices seek accreditation because they want to be the best and view this as another step toward excellence."

The AGPAL accreditation program was developed jointly by AGPAL and various doctor's organisations including the AMA. It is a voluntary national program that aims to provide a range of guarantees to patients by accrediting the practice environment.

To achieve this endorsement, a practice team works for 12 months to implement the *Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for general practices*, which is the recognised standard nationally for assessment for general practice.

The standards train staff in areas such as ensuring vaccines are within their use-by-date and are stored in the correct temperatures; that the practice equipment is clean and sterile and the practice has emergency care available.

Dr Choong said accreditation is attainable only through cooperation and communication between staff members.

"Everyone at the practice plays a valuable role in working to meet the standards. It gives staff a real sense of pride to work in an accredited practice," added Dr Choong.

The Geeveston Medical Centre will proudly display the AGPAL symbol for all their patients to see.

"We want to communicate to our patients that their wellbeing is our priority. By being accredited, our patients know we are committed to providing quality care that meets the RACGP's standards."

For further information on AGPAL, please visit www.agpal.com.au or free call 1300 362 111.

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

AGPAL accreditation evaluates the quality and safety of care for more than 80% of general practices throughout Australia.

To maintain and earn accreditation, practices must have an extensive on-site review by a team of AGPAL peer surveyors.

The purpose of the review is to evaluate the practice against standards set by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). To be awarded accreditation the practice must demonstrate how they meet all the standards and criteria set by the RACGP.

About 4000 of the nation's 6000 practices undergo *AGPAL Accreditation* and over 80% of practices are accredited

Achieving accreditation is a voluntary process and covers features such as:

- The safe and lawful use of practice equipment;
- Accessibility and availability of medical care including after-hours and emergency care;
- Staff training;
- Information technology and information security;
- The security and availability of your records and information.

AGPAL is an independent, not-for-profit organisation. AGPAL is governed by a board that includes GPs and consumer representatives from around the country. AGPAL assesses practices against standards set by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

Media Contact for AGPAL: Danielle Kotkin 07 3876 6370