

## COPY PACK

**This pack has been developed for Victorian PHNs to increase recruitment of GPs, nurses and medical clinics to the Doctors in Secondary Schools program.**

Where possible please add local PHN quotes or personalise the copy below to your PHN, and vacancies within your PHN region.

This pack is to be used along with the [DISS recruitment campaign tool kit](#) that includes an overview of the campaign, key messages, and links to campaign graphics assets, photos and videos. For more information please contact Julie Sucksmith ([julie.sucksmith@nwmpnh.org.au](mailto:julie.sucksmith@nwmpnh.org.au)) or Natasha Blumer ([natasha.blumer@nwmpnh.org.au](mailto:natasha.blumer@nwmpnh.org.au)).

### SUGGESTED NEWS ITEMS

**SHORT NEWS RELEASE** (approx. 228 words)

[DATE]

### Doctors in schools – giving kids the health care they need, where and when they need it

The hunt is on for GPs and nurses willing to make the change, one-day-a-week to work in a local high school.

**XXXX Primary Health Network (XXXXPHN)** this week put out the call for medical professionals looking for a change of pace to sign up for the State Government's multimillion dollar Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) program.

Victoria has 100 government secondary schools which benefit from the DiSS program. Students can access safe, quality health services with a GP, present for 4 hours, and a nurse, present all day, once a week. Since 2017, over 55,700 GP consultations have been delivered through this program.

"I have learnt lots going back to school one day a week but in particular, just how incredibly resilient young people are," says Hannah Millard, DiSS Practice Nurse at Brauer College in Warrnambool.

In the **[PHN catchment]** region there are some schools without their DiSS teams. This means that there are opportunities available right now for GPs and nurses who dream of spending time one day to help kids thrive, to get in touch and [lodge an expressions of interest](#).

To find out what other DISS clinicians say about the program visit [vtphna.org.au/applydiss](http://vtphna.org.au/applydiss)

In this region, there are immediate vacancies at **[list schools]**.

For more details **[email or call details for appropriate person at XXXPHN]**

**LONG MEDIA RELEASE** (Approx 537 words)

**[DATE]**

## DOCTORS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL – ONE DAY PER WEEK

The hunt is on for GPs and nurses willing to make the change, one-day-a-week to work in a local high school.

XXXX Primary Health Network (XXXXPHN) this week put out the call for community-minded medical professionals looking for a change of pace to sign up for the State Government’s multimillion dollar Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) program.

The program, established in 2017, funds GP-nurse teams to operate once a week during term time at the 100 government secondary schools across Victoria considered most in need. To date, over 55,700 consultations have been delivered through this program.

DiSS complements existing student wellbeing programs aimed at improving health literacy and encouraging preventive health. GPs and practice nurses deliver services at a school each week, for 4 hours for the GP and up to one day for the nurse.

Right now, there’s a vacancy for a GP-nurse team at [XXXXXXX secondary school at SUBURB/TOWN/LOCALITY].

“It is a rewarding role!” says Jessica Chung, Practice Nurse at DiSS Victoria University Secondary College. “Certainly different to the usual GP clinic environment, in a good way. You get to be autonomous and work in a close team with the GP and the school.”

Having a doctor and nurse on site makes primary health care more accessible to students, who otherwise might face difficulties reaching their nearest medical centre. It also allows kids to talk frankly and at length about health challenges and fears they might not wish to raise with their parents or carers.

“Doctors in Secondary Schools provides assistance to young people to identify and address any health problems early,” explained [name] [name], the [appropriate spokesperson from XXXPHN].

“It provides a space for a GP or nurse to have the time to spend with kids, to help them grow through the tough years of adolescence into adulthood. This builds healthier, happier kids and communities. It also reduces the pressure on working parents and community-based GPs.”

DiSS clinicians are usually resident at a nearby medical practice – although sometimes they commute from more distant clinics.

“The program makes a lot of difference for the children, but it’s also really good for the GPs and nurses,” said [same person].

“Going to school each week during term time lets DiSS clinicians connect with parts of their community they might not otherwise reach. And, for doctors based a bit further away, it’s a great opportunity to reach a new community in a new area.”

The program is fully funded until 2025. In this region, there are some eligible schools without their GP and nurse teams. This is because from time to time changes to professional or personal commitments mean that people decide to move on.

“And that means that there are opportunities available right now for GPs and nurses who dream of spending time with kids and helping them thrive, to step forward, get in touch and lodge expressions of interest,” said [same person].

[Applications can be made here.](#)

To find out what other DISS teams say about the program visit [vtpna.org.au/applydiss](http://vtpna.org.au/applydiss)

In this region, there are immediate vacancies at [list schools].

For more details [email or call details for appropriate person at XXXPHN] or visit [local phn DiSS website page Link]

## NEWSLETTER COPY (approx. 295 words)

### For immediate vacancies

### Help shape the health of the next generation

This is the chance to change your day-to-day, and experience something different one day a week. A new opportunity is available for a GP and nurse to become part of the successful Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) program.

Applications are open for one GP, for 4 hours, and nurse for a full day, once a week, to join the staff and wellbeing team at [XXXXXXXX secondary school -suburb/town/locality].

The DiSS program provides access to professional primary health care services to young people in 100 government secondary schools across Victoria. Since 2017, students have been able to access safe, quality health services from a GP and nurse on one day every week in term time.

**“It’s a really different program. This is just the best job.”** - Michelle, who has been a DiSS practice nurse for 5 years.

Through the DiSS program, GPs and nurses have become a valued part of the school and their communities. They say its not always easy but it’s a highly rewarding role as they are able to spend time with the students, watching them grow and helping them thrive.

All DiSS clinicians are provided with the latest training in adolescent health and wellbeing by Melbourne University, so that you can really enjoy the experience of working within the school and with the students. The DiSS PHN team supports practices and practitioners to set up and integrate with the school and its wellbeing team to deliver the program.

<include image>

[Apply now](#) or to find out what other DISS teams say about the program visit [vtpna.org.au/applydiss](http://vtpna.org.au/applydiss)

Find out if there are [other vacancies in this region](#) or in Victoria.

# Doctors in Secondary Schools Recruitment Campaign

For more details [email or call details for appropriate person at XXXPHN] or visit [local phn DiSS website page Link]

## SUGGESTED SOCIAL MEDIA

### BURST 2 UPDATES



“It appears that there is a great number of kids ‘suffering in silence’ with treatable conditions and it is good to be able to provide care,” says DiSS GP, Dr Dallas Smith.

Victoria has 100 government secondary schools which benefit from the DiSS program. Students can access safe, quality health services with a GP (4 hours) and nurse present one day a week.

As part of the program, GPs and nurses are trained in adolescent health and wellbeing at no cost, supported by their local PHN, and work with school staff and wellbeing teams in a purpose-built facility.

Change your day-to-day and give kids the health care they need, where and when they need it.

**To find out more or register your interest visit: [vtpna.org.au/applydiss](https://vtpna.org.au/applydiss)**



**Change your day-to-day and give kids the health care they need, where and when they need it.**

As part of the statewide Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) program, GPs and practice nurses in 100 schools deliver services each week, for 4 hours for the GP and up to one day for the nurse.

# Doctors in Secondary Schools Recruitment Campaign

“The benefit of DiSS will be felt by many young people for years to come and it is exciting to play a part in this,” says DiSS Dr Mark Timlin at Fountain Gate Secondary College in Narre Warren.

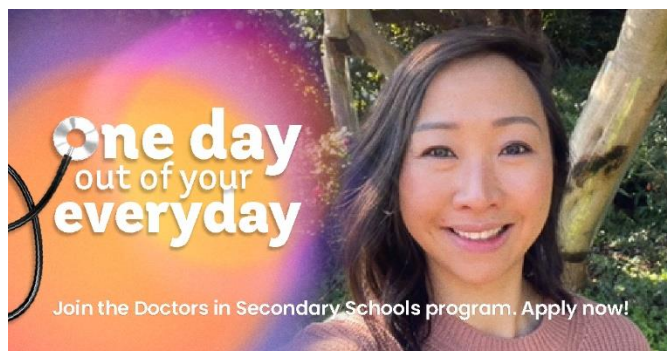
Change your day-to-day. [For more information](https://bit.ly/3xOy090) or to apply, visit: <https://bit.ly/3xOy090>



“I find it very rewarding. That sounds like a bit of cliché, but you do find it very satisfying to be able to go to work and to be able to do something that’s making a difference and is different to what you’re doing day to day,” says DiSS GP, Johanna Dennis at Wedderburn College.

The Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) program is an important part of the statewide health system, and a unique opportunity for practice nurses and GPs who want to change their day-to-day and be actively involved in the tough transition that young people go through, from adolescence to adulthood.

We visited Wedderburn College and spoke about this rewarding program. [Watch](#) to find out what it’s like to be a GP or nurse working within a school community.



**Take a break and experience something truly rewarding, one day a week.**

*“Being in our portable on-site at the school makes me feel like I am a part of their school community and it takes me out of my usual clinic environment, which is a very nice change,” says practice manager Jessica Chung from IPC Health, and DISS practice nurse at Victoria University Secondary College in Cairnlea.*

# Doctors in Secondary Schools Recruitment Campaign

Victoria has 100 government secondary schools which benefit from the Doctors in Secondary Schools program. Students can access safe, quality health services with a GP, present for 4 hours, and a nurse, present for a whole day, once a week.

GPs and nurses are trained in adolescent health and wellbeing at no cost, supported by their local PHN, and work with school staff and wellbeing teams to deliver the program in a purpose-built facility.

Change your day-to-day. To apply or to find out how to become a part of this rewarding program, visit [vtphna.org.au/applydiss](https://vtphna.org.au/applydiss)



“It has changed my role as a nurse in the community by realising how important it is for young people to be able to access quality health care, information and advice in a way that suits their needs,” says DiSS practice nurse, Hannah Millard at Brauer College, Warrnambool.

Victoria has 100 government secondary schools which benefit from the Doctors in Secondary Schools program. Students can access safe, quality health services with a GP (4 hours) and nurse present in a purpose-built facility, one day a week.

This a unique opportunity to change your day-to-day and give kids the health care they need, where and when they need it.

**To apply or to find out how to become a part of this rewarding program, visit [vtphna.org.au/applydiss](https://vtphna.org.au/applydiss)**

## BURST 1

### Be the change – for you and our next generation.

This is an opportunity to widen your practice by spending time with secondary students, providing safe, quality and accessible health care in a supported environment.

As part of the statewide Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) program, GPs and practice nurses deliver services at a school each week, for 4 hours for the GP and up to one day for the nurse.

*“The benefit of DiSS will be felt by many young people for years to come and it is exciting to play a part in this,” says GP Mark Timlin, DiSS Fountain Gate Secondary College in Narre Warren.*

Change your day-to-day and give kids the health care they need, where and when they need it.

[Apply now](#)

### Help shape the health of the next generation

100 Victorian Government secondary schools have a Doctors in Secondary Schools program where students can access safe, quality health services from a GP and nurse one day every week in term time.

This is an opportunity to spend quality time with young people and help them through the tough transition from adolescence to adulthood.

Change your day-to-day and give kids the health care they need, where and when they need it.

Watch here: <link or attach video>[Apply now](#). Complete the DiSS [EOI form today](#).

## ADDITIONAL QUOTES

*“This is something where we can really make a difference, so I recommend it to anyone who is interested. Even if you haven’t worked with teens before, it’s a really great way to learn more about it in a really supported environment. You’re giving back and really helping the next generation.” Dr Johanna Dennis, DiSS GP at Wedderburn College in regional Victoria.*

*“It is a rewarding program, and quite different to what I had expected. The variety of presentations has been quite engaging. You never know what will come in through the door.” Dr Dallas Smith, DiSS GP at Dandenong High School.*

*“It is a rewarding role! Certainly different to the usual GP clinic environment, in a good way. You get to be autonomous and work in a close team with the GP and the school.” Jessica Chung, Practice Nurse at DiSS Victoria University Secondary College, Cairnlea.*

# Doctors in Secondary Schools Recruitment Campaign

## SUGGESTED TAGS:

### **RACGP**

FB - @TheRACGP  
LinkedIn - @theracgp  
Twitter - @RACGP

### **AAPM**

FB - @AAPMAustralia  
LinkedIn - @aapm  
Twitter - @aapm\_national

### **APNA**

FB - @APNAnurses  
LinkedIn - @apnanurses  
Twitter - @APNAnurses

### **ACRRM**

FB - @ACRRM4ruralhealth  
LinkedIn - @australian-college-of-rural-and-remote-medicine  
Twitter - @ACRRM

## For more information

Contact Natasha Blumer, Statewide Project Manager, North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network. Email: [natasha.blumer@nwmpnh.org.au](mailto:natasha.blumer@nwmpnh.org.au)