MEDIA STATEMENT

12 August 2022

<u>Vale Dr Carol Kefford</u>

Sydney North Health Network would like to acknowledge the passing of Dr Carol Kefford, Founder of the GPs in Schools Program

We are deeply saddened by Carol's passing. Dr Carol Kefford was the Founder of the GPs in Schools program, and highly regarded local GP to the Pennant Hills area.

Her passion, and advocacy of adolescent health, has left a legacy that will continue positively influencing the lives of young people for many years to come.

The GPs in Schools program started in 1996. Carol, along with a friend who was a teacher at Pennant Hills High School, realised students needed to connect with their GPs. Carol also carried out a small research study where she interviewed young people to find out what barriers were preventing them from seeing a GP. This research informed the development of the program. The GPs in Schools program structure has remained virtually unchanged, testament to the program's continuing relevancy and success.

Carol held positions on various committees relating to adolescent health and presented at and organised multiple conferences for GPs which focused on adolescent health. She was also instrumental in the creation of an adolescent health clinic, which caters for young people without a regular GP.

The GPs in Schools program has always received positive feedback from participating schools and teachers. The program successfully develops awareness amongst young people about the role that GPs play in supporting their health and breaks down the barriers that young people perceive to impact their ability to seek healthcare and health information.

Carol has impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people across the Northern Sydney District and we are extremely proud to be continuing her work.

The Sydney North Health Network Board of Directors, Executives and employees send our deepest condolences to Carol's family and friends.

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ABOUT: Sydney North Health Network https://sydneynorthhealthnetwork.org.au/
The Northern Sydney Primary Health Network, operated by the Sydney North Health Network – a not-for-profit organisation – is one of 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) established by the Australian Government to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for the community. Our focus is on patients who are at risk of poor health outcomes. We work to improve the coordination of their care, so they receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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