

SUNBURY

# Paediatrician push support

Jessica Coates

### Health service backs mum's petition for public specialist to meet local demand

SUNBURY'S local health service has thrown its support behind a move to bring a publicly funded paediatrician to town.

The push came after mum of two Simone Meyer launched a petition calling on the State Government to invest in the service.

Ms Meyer said she had been forced to travel to Broadmeadows, Moonee Ponds and Pascoe Vale for medical appointments.

Sunbury Community Health child, youth and families services general manager Julie Landy said access

to a paediatrician could help parents understand their child's developmental and medical needs.

"The wait to see a publicly funded paediatrician can be up to 12 months for some families. This is an unacceptably long time to wait for families

who are extremely anxious about their child's development and health needs," she said.

"It is often also a barrier to early access to appropriate services and support to assist their child's development."

Ms Landy said the special-

ist could also link to and share information with psychologists, teachers and other medical professionals.

"Having a publicly funded paediatrician available in Sunbury would mean that all families in the community could get help and support

faster when needed," she said.

Ms Meyer — whose initial petition has reached more than 300 signatures — welcomed the support.

"They've touched on a lot of things the local community are feeling," she said.

"We're a growing community, it makes no sense that we don't have one."



Anne Fitzpatrick, Sandra And, Sharyn Tyers, Margaret Cassidy and Sharyn Logan. Picture: ROB LEESON

## CAREWORKS TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

CAREWORKS SunRanges is getting into the Christmas spirit a little early this year.

The crisis support agency and its volunteers have been hard at work putting together Christmas hampers.

Careworks manager Michael Austin said the holiday season

could be stressful. "We have established a Christmas hamper program to give food to our clients at this very special but sometimes financially stressful time of year," he said.

Mr Austin said hampers were distributed primarily to

clients, but also to schools, clients on the Sunbury Police Community Register, a hostel and a mental health facility.

Last year, Careworks gave out 300 bags of goodies to more than 200 families. An increase in demand could see the group pass out even more

this year, so it's calling on the community to help out.

"Christmas is such a special time for giving to others and we invite you to help us spread the cheer," Mr Austin said.

"Donations of food items or cash (to purchase these items) would be gratefully accepted."

A collection box is at Sunbury Square in the lead-up to Christmas.

Donations will also be accepted at Careworks, 34 Macedon St, Sunbury, on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 3pm. Details: 9740 5061.

### Christmas lights

Calling all Santa's elves! We're creating the ultimate guide to Melbourne's Christmas lights. If you're decorating your home, we want to know about it. Go to [leadernews.com.au/xmaslights2018](http://leadernews.com.au/xmaslights2018) and tell us about your display. We'll publish as many as we can in a special feature the week commencing December 10. If you're not decorating, but have a favourite street you love to visit, go to our Facebook page and share details or email [elaine.phelan@news.com.au](mailto:elaine.phelan@news.com.au)

### New SES trucks

Sunbury's hardworking emergency service volunteers will be sporting some shiny new wheels, thanks to a State Government grant. The Sunbury SES received \$232,550 to replace an old medium rescue truck. Sunbury SES spokesman Jarrod Bell said technology had come so far "that this truck will keep our members safer as we respond to emergencies". **Diggers Rest** received \$182,000 to buy a new light tanker.

### Keep in touch

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