



ECM Ref: 8200294

6 June 2022

Dear Maternal and Child Health Families,

### **Temporary City of Melton Maternal Child Health Service prioritisation changes**

I write to further update you on the status on Melton City Council's Maternal and Child Health Service.

The City of Melton Maternal and Child Health service is continuing to provide support services whilst experiencing significant challenges from low availability of Maternal and Child Health nurses, (an issue being experienced across Victoria), the high local birth rate, and the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing impacts on the service.

From the week commencing 6 June, Melton City Council will prioritise children from 0-8 weeks of age, plus Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, vulnerable children and families, as well as children and families with additional needs or concerns including families enrolled in the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program and those with COVID-19.

This means that Maternal and Child Health consultations will remain temporarily paused for older infants aged 4-months and over, and existing appointments will unfortunately need to be cancelled.

To help us assess your child's needs at this time we advise all families, especially those with concerns regarding their child's learning, development or behaviour, to please complete the Parents Evaluation Developmental Status (PEDS) in your green book and email a photo of it to [mchtoddlersupport@melton.vic.gov.au](mailto:mchtoddlersupport@melton.vic.gov.au) This email is monitored by our Maternal and Child Health nurses.

If you have any concerns about missing an individual appointment, we invite you to join our free parent education groups to have a chat with our Parenting Group Educator. This is an opportunity to ask questions, hear from other parents, and get information and support. The education sessions are very popular with parents and care givers who have reported benefits from their participation.

## Available support services

Several parent education support measures are available during this time to help support you and help you understand your child's health and development:

- Free parent groups and information sessions are available for:
  - Baby and early childhood development
  - Baby and toddler nutrition and fussy eating
  - Toilet training
  - Toddler play and development
  - Managing challenging behaviour

Register for our parent education groups at [NewParentGroupMCH@melton.vic.gov.au](mailto:NewParentGroupMCH@melton.vic.gov.au)

- For breastfeeding support, contact us on **9747 5462** or via email: [lactation@melton.vic.gov.au](mailto:lactation@melton.vic.gov.au)
- View a list of resources for babies and toddlers at [melton.vic.gov.au/familyresources](http://melton.vic.gov.au/familyresources)
- Call the Victorian Maternal and Child Health Line, staffed 24 hours by qualified nurses, on **13 22 29**
- Consult your family GP
- Visit a [SuperCare pharmacy](#) which provides 24-hour access to healthcare advice and pharmacy services, including a free, on-site nursing service from 6-10pm
- Contact an optometrist for vision testing
- You can download the [free maternal and child health app](#). It provides reliable information matched to the age of your child that you can use every day.

The health and wellbeing of children and families remains our highest priority and we look forward to seeing you and your child as soon as service capacity allows. If you have questions about this service change, please email [mchtoddlersupport@melton.vic.gov.au](mailto:mchtoddlersupport@melton.vic.gov.au)

Sincerely

Brendan Ball

Manager Families and Children Services