



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday, 30 January 2018**

---

### **New maternal child health clinic opens in South West**

The South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) will unveil its new maternal and child health clinic, *Kwilenap*, at an official opening on 1 February 2018 at 9:00am.

The clinic, located at the Australind Healthplex, will be officially opened by the Honourable Ken Wyatt, Federal Minister for Aged Care and Indigenous Health, at an onsite morning tea for community members and Elders.

*Kwilenap*, meaning 'place of the dolphins' in Noongar language, will provide Aboriginal families in the region with improved access to maternal and child health services.

SWAMS CEO Lesley Nelson said that she was thrilled to add the new facility to SWAMS' growing portfolio of services and programs.

"Providing quality health care to our community is vital. Building capacity in our services and creating opportunities for our clients to access quality health care and support is our highest priority," Ms Nelson said.

"*Kwilenap* will ensure clients have access to a multi-disciplinary team of midwives, child health nurses, Indigenous outreach worker and an Aboriginal health worker, who will work together to ensure healthy pregnancies and healthy infants."

In addition to midwifery and child health services, the clinic will also offer a unique cultural program that draws on the knowledge of local Elders to support new mothers and fathers in their transition to parenthood.

"The *Kwilenap* program will encourage and empower our community to raise strong, healthy children. We want to arm parents with the knowledge and skills needed to embark on a positive parenting journey while giving their children the best possible start to life," Ms Nelson said.

In the months ahead, SWAMS will be partnering with existing services in the region to deliver *Kwilenap*'s midwifery and child health services to Collie, Manjimup, Busselton, Harvey and Brunswick Junction.

The *Kwilenap* clinic was made possible with funding received under the Commonwealth Government's New Directions Mothers and Babies Services program.

Clinic hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am-4:00pm and Wednesday from 9.30am-1:00pm.

**For more information please contact SWAMS on (08) 9726 6000, or 1800 779 000 (toll-free).**

---

**For media enquiries please contact SWAMS Public Relations Officer Jo Mills on (08) 9791 1166.**