

SAVE FREE COMMUNITY HEALTH IN FITZROY AND COLLINGWOOD!



cohealth's decision to close its Collingwood clinic and reduce GP and counselling services in Fitzroy will affect the communities that need them most.

Community health services play a vital role in keeping our neighbourhoods healthy and connected

In November 2025, cohealth announced that it would close its Collingwood clinic entirely in 2026 and stop offering GP, pharmacy, and general counselling services at its Fitzroy and Kensington clinics.

At a time when rents are skyrocketing, cost-of-living pressures are crushing households, and public hospitals are buckling under demand, cutting bulk-billing for primary care is not just bad policy - it's dangerous.

In December 2025 the Federal Government announced:

- an injection of \$1.5M to enable bulk billing GP services to continue until mid-2026
- an independent review into cohealth commissioned by both the Federal and State Governments.

On 8 May 2026 the Federal Government announced that it would provide a further \$1.5 million so that free GP services could continue in Collingwood, Fitzroy and Kensington for up to 12 months. Funding would be dependent upon cohealth working with the North

Western Melbourne Primary Health Network to make improvements to its governance, management and model of care.

This is a big win for the community. The Federal Government has listened and acted. But it is another stop gap - a temporary fix where a permanent fix is needed.

The community, supported by Council, will continue to advocate for:

- permanent retention of all services at the three sites.
- retention of the Collingwood site for community health purposes and a rebuild of the site at its current location.

Why the Victorian and Federal Governments must act

cohealth's clinics see an estimated 46,000 patients every year across their three sites, many of whom would otherwise end up in hospital emergency departments.

Many walk to cohealth because it's the only clinic that treats them with dignity - no judgement, no bills, just care. These patients will have nowhere else to turn.

The community is calling on the Victorian and Federal Governments to step up immediately to ensure that these services continue to those who need them most.

KEEP UP THE PRESSURE!

Scan the QR code or go to yarracity.vic.gov.au/savecommunityhealth to learn how and get involved.

