

Women's Health Week WITH MINISTER BRIDGET MCKENZIE

VERY GRATEFUL TO BRIGITTE GEENEN, DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE GLADSTONE, FOR WELCOMING MINISTER BRIDGET MCKENZIE DURING WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK.

During our discussions, Bridgette highlighted the services and information available through the Centre. They have up-to-date information on women's health, pregnancy and parenting, counselling and family support, support for victims of domestic or sexual violence, and women's community support and crisis networks. All women are welcome to drop into 20 Tank Street Gladstone or phone the Centre on 4979 1456 for information, referral and advice between 9am – 4:30pm.

From a National perspective, the Australian Government is committed to supporting the health of all Australian women and girls through all stages of their lives. Of particular importance is the current development of a National Women's Health Strategy: 2020 – 2030 to improve the health and wellbeing of all women in Australia over the coming decade.

The Australian Government has announced a range of women's health initiatives this year, including:

- The creation of the first ever

National Action Plan for Endometriosis, supported with an initial Commonwealth investment of \$4.7 million for greater awareness, clinical care and research into this common menstrual health disorder;

- \$703.6 million to list Kisqali® on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), to provide subsidised access to treatment for breast cancer, from 1 July 2018;
- \$39.5 million to list Boostrix® and Adacel® on the PBS to immunise pregnant women and their unborn children against whooping cough, from 1 July 2018;
- \$9 million for the Butterfly Foundation to provide novel treatment and to coordinate a

national system of care for people with diagnosed eating disorders, which predominantly affect women;

- \$18.6 million through the National Health and Medical Research Council for 29 new women's health research projects, including for breast cancer research, sexual and reproductive health, and non-communicable disease prevention and detection;
- \$17.5 million through the Medical Research Future Fund for the Women's Health Research, Maternal Health and First 2,000 Days Initiative; and
- The current development of an Australian Breastfeeding Strategy: 2018 and Beyond.

