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## **NOW OPEN FOR SERVICE: CLINIC 180 - KIRKETON ROAD CENTRE'S NEW PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IN SYDNEY'S KINGS CROSS**

The Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) has a new public health facility open for service, following the official opening today of 'Clinic 180' at 180 Victoria Street Potts Point, by Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales.

Open daily from 1.30pm to 9.00pm, Clinic 180 provides an important opportunity to integrate the services of KRC's former K2 Clinic, with a range of additional nurse-led clinical services targeting high risk hard-to-reach populations who do not access more traditional health services during normal business hours.

Nurse-led clinics will operate from two clinical consultation rooms on the ground floor of Clinic 180 and provide a range of services on a drop-in and appointment basis. These include: general health assessment, testing and treatment for sexually transmissible infections (STIs), HIV and hepatitis, drug and alcohol assessment, counselling and referral to drug treatment and rehabilitation, women's health checks, first aid and wound dressings, social welfare assistance and crisis counselling and access to sterile injecting and safe disposal equipment and condoms.

The second and third floors of Clinic 180 will accommodate KRC's outreach and health promotion team, as well as staff from Inner City Youth-At-Risk and Aboriginal projects.

Director, Kirketon Road Centre, Dr Ingrid van Beek AM, said the move to new premises at Clinic 180 further improves the Centre's ability to meet the significant public health needs of 'at risk' young people, sex workers and people who inject drugs in Sydney's inner-city and Kings Cross area.

"Providing health care and treatment to vulnerable populations living in inner-city Sydney area has always been the focus of the Kirketon Road Centre's work," Dr van Beek said.

"By engaging such people close to where they dwell, we are able to reduce their HIV risk behaviour, meet their immediate health needs as well as address the underlying reasons for their street-based lifestyle. In this way we can provide tangible public health improvements in the longer term – for those individuals and their families as well as the broader community," Dr van Beek said.

The new premises were needed due to the building and maintenance issues at K2 and have consolidated staff from KRC's K2 facility (formerly at the 38 Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross) and staff formerly located in office space at 140 William Street.

KRC's headquarters - where a comprehensive range of primary health care services and methadone treatment are provided - will remain at its current location above the Darlinghurst Fire Station.

Since KRC's establishment 25 years ago, in April 1987, KRC staff have engaged 'at-risk' young people, sex workers and people who inject drugs by providing health care in a flexible, non-judgmental and respectful way. Comprehensive medical, nursing, counselling and social welfare services are provided at KRC, including methadone access, needle syringe and outreach programs. KRC has about 50,000 client contacts every year.

KRC is recognised as a 'best practice' health model by the World Health Organization and has been replicated elsewhere in Australia and the Asian region.

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**South Eastern Sydney Local Health District**

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