



FEBRUARY - MARCH 2025 EDITION

FREE TO TAKE HOME!



Back-to-School Anxiety



Understanding Puberty



The Importance of Sleep



Skin Cancer Checks

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

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Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.
www.healthnews.net.au

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● PRACTICE DOCTORS

- Dr Chris Denz
- Dr Jasper Mahon
- Dr Mathew John
- Prof Tunde Abioye-Kuteyi
- Dr Edmond Ip
- Dr Georgia Frew
- Dr Zachary Denz
- Dr Jenny Ho
- Dr Selina Tsui (on maternity leave)
- Dr Nara Kim
- Dr Romi Gordon
- Dr Peter Trinh
- Dr Christine Kwok (on maternity leave)
- Dr Rosalind Ho
- Dr Sarah Bowyer

● NURSING STAFF

Jean, Faye & Emmeline

The philosophy of this practice is to provide comprehensive and thoughtful medical care. We work hard to keep up-to-date with the latest medical innovations and to bring you efficient personal service.

● SURGERY HOURS

Weekdays.....7am – 6pm
Weekends & Public Holidays.....9am – 6pm

● AFTER NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS & EMERGENCIES

Phone the locum service: **1300 030 030**

A home visit can be arranged with Locums if required.

● BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

We are a private billing practice and settlement of your account is required after your consultation.

Standard Consultation\$100.00
Long Consultations\$150.00
After Hours Standard Consultation ...\$115.00
After Hours Long Consultation\$175.00

There is a \$10 establishment fee for all new patients.

Your receipt may then be submitted to Medicare for an instant refund. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS.

Patients are informed of costs before treatment, investigations or procedures are performed in addition to the consultation.

● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Vaccinations: We offer COVID-19, monkeypox, flu, all travel and all childhood vaccinations. Please book online at www.ccmc.net.au.

Telephone Consultations now available.

Flu Vaccinations. Flu vaccinations are available now. Flu vaccinations are free for all patients over 65 years, children aged between 6 months and 5 years, pregnant women and Aboriginal People aged over 15 years. The flu vaccination is \$25 for all other patients. Please contact reception to book your flu vaccination.

Communication. A nurse is available during normal surgery hours for emergency advice.

Our staff are experienced in deciding the appropriate response to any phone request.

Our doctors will return your telephone calls or respond to your emails once they have finished dealing with their patients. If a phone call or email cannot be dealt with quickly, you should book an appointment to see your doctor to ensure your concerns are addressed properly.

There will be a fee for the telephone/email consultations.

Patient Health Information. Your medical record is confidential. It is the policy of this practice to maintain security of personal health information at all times and to ensure that this information is only available to authorised members of staff.

If you request a copy of your medical records or test results, we will ask you to complete a request form and to provide a copy of your photo ID to confirm that you are the patient. There is a administration fee for the release of medical records to yourself or to another Practice. Please ask our reception staff to provide you with the necessary paperwork.

Follow Up. A computerised reminder system is available and used for follow up of many medical conditions. If you wish to participate in this, please inform your doctor. This surgery participates in State & National registers.

Test Results. We will contact you if there is any concern with your test results. If you would like to discuss these with your doctor please make a follow-up appointment. Most test results usually take 3-5 working days to come back to us, but may take a week or more for some tests.

● APPOINTMENTS

Online bookings are now available. Please visit our website at www.ccmc.net.au and click the link to online bookings.

Walk-ins. Walk-in appointments are usually available within the hour, but it is preferred that you book in advance.

Long appointments and Procedures. If you need a full medical examination, a procedure, review of a complex health problem or counselling, please call us on 9225-1188, to ensure we allow enough time, and a treatment room if needed. This ensures you get the attention you deserve.

Family members. Please book an appointment for each family member who needs to see the doctor. We cannot squeeze you all into one appointment!

Cancellations. If you cannot attend your appointment, please give us at least 2 hours' notice of your cancellation to avoid a fee.

▷ **Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.**

Managing Back-to-School Anxiety in Children

The start of a new school year often brings excitement, but for many children, it also triggers anxiety.

This anxiety can stem from a variety of factors, such as fear of academic challenges, social pressures, or changes in routine.

Recognizing and addressing these concerns is essential to helping children transition smoothly back to school.

Children may express their anxiety through physical symptoms like headaches, stomach aches, or disrupted sleep. Others might become irritable, clingy, or withdrawn. It's important for parents and caregivers to acknowledge these feelings rather than dismiss them.

Open communication is key—encourage children to share their worries and validate their emotions.

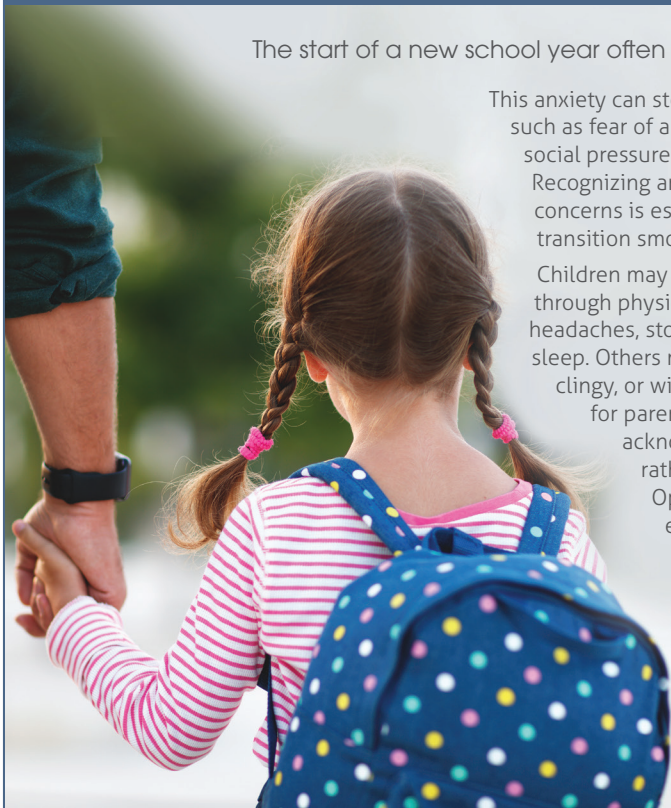
Preparation can significantly reduce anxiety. Visiting the school ahead of time, meeting teachers, and familiarizing children

with their schedules can provide a sense of control. Setting a consistent routine a few weeks before school starts, including regular sleep and meal times, also helps ease the adjustment.

It is vital to equip children with coping strategies. Teach them deep breathing exercises, positive self-talk, or effective time management. Encouraging friendships and social interactions can also boost their confidence and comfort.

Parents should model a positive attitude toward school and demonstrate problem-solving skills. If anxiety persists or becomes overwhelming, consider seeking support from school counsellors or mental health professionals.

Returning to school can be a challenging transition, but with patience, preparation, and support, children can overcome their fears and thrive in the new academic year. Fostering resilience and confidence will empower them for future challenges.



Understanding Puberty: A Vital Stage of Growth

Puberty is a critical phase in human development, marking the transition from childhood to adolescence. It is driven by hormonal changes that trigger physical, emotional, and psychological transformations, preparing the body for adulthood.

The onset of puberty varies, typically between ages 8-14 for girls and 9-16 for boys. Hormones, particularly estrogen and testosterone, play a pivotal role. In girls, puberty is characterised by breast development, the start of menstruation (menarche), and the growth of pubic and underarm hair. Boys experience a deepening of the voice, facial and body hair growth, and testicular and penile enlargement.

Significant emotional and social developments accompany physical changes during puberty. Adolescents may experience mood swings, heightened self-awareness, and a desire for independence. Peer relationships often take on greater importance, influencing self-esteem and decision-making.

Puberty also involves rapid growth spurts, with bones and muscles maturing quickly. This growth may cause temporary awkwardness as the body adjusts. Acne, a common skin condition during puberty, is another noticeable change, often linked to increased oil production.

Supporting adolescents through puberty

is crucial. Open communication, education about bodily changes, and fostering a positive body image can ease the challenges associated with this transition. Parents, teachers, and healthcare providers play essential roles in providing guidance and reassurance.

Puberty is a natural and necessary stage of life, shaping individuals' physical and emotional identities. By understanding its complexities, we can better support young people navigating this transformative journey.



The Power of Positive Thinking

Positive thinking is more than just a feel-good mantra—it is a mindset that has the potential to transform lives. Rooted in optimism, positive thinking helps individuals focus on possibilities rather than limitations, creating a pathway to personal and professional success.



Scientific research has shown that positive thinking can enhance mental and physical well-being. By fostering an optimistic outlook, individuals can reduce stress, improve coping mechanisms, and boost resilience during challenging times. Positive thinkers are more likely to set goals, persevere through difficulties, and adapt to setbacks, viewing failures as opportunities for growth.

One of the key benefits of positive thinking is its impact on mental health. It encourages self-belief and reduces the risk of anxiety and depression. Physically, it has been linked to lower blood pressure,

a stronger immune system, and a reduced risk of chronic illnesses.

Positive thinking doesn't mean ignoring reality or dismissing challenges. Instead, it involves reframing obstacles as surmountable and focusing on solutions rather than problems. Practising gratitude, affirmations, and mindfulness can nurture this outlook.

The power of positive thinking lies in its ability to shape perspectives, fuel motivation, and cultivate a fulfilling life. By embracing positivity, individuals can unlock their potential and create a brighter future.

The Importance of Sleep

Sleep is a vital component of overall health and well-being, often as important as nutrition and exercise. Despite its significance, many people undervalue sleep, leading to widespread sleep deprivation with serious consequences for physical and mental health.

Quality sleep supports essential bodily functions, including tissue repair, immune system strengthening, and hormone regulation. It plays a critical role in brain health, facilitating memory consolidation, problem-solving skills, and emotional regulation. Without sufficient sleep, cognitive abilities decline, increasing the risk of errors and accidents.

For adults, 7-9 hours of sleep per night is generally recommended, while children and teenagers require even more to support their growth and development. Chronic sleep deprivation has been linked to a host of health problems, including obesity,

diabetes, heart disease, and depression. It also weakens the immune system, making the body more vulnerable to illnesses.

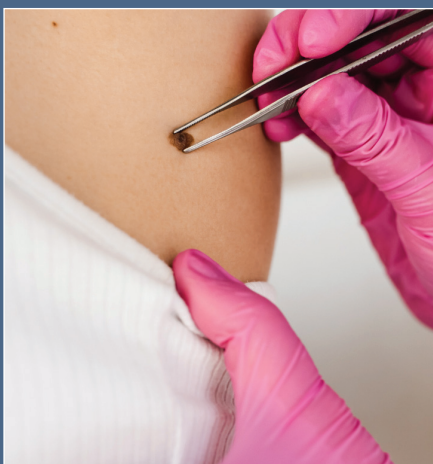
Good sleep hygiene practices can enhance the quality of rest. Effective strategies include maintaining a consistent sleep schedule, creating a comfortable sleep environment, limiting screen time before bed, and avoiding stimulants like caffeine late in the day.

Sleep is not a luxury but a necessity. Prioritizing rest is an investment in long-term health, productivity, and overall quality of life. Make sleep a priority for a healthier, more vibrant you.



The Importance of Skin Cancer Checks

Skin cancer is one of the most common types of cancer worldwide, yet it is highly preventable and treatable when detected early. Regular skin cancer checks are essential for identifying potential issues before they become serious, potentially saving lives.



The primary cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun or tanning devices. Prolonged or intense UV exposure damages skin cells, leading to abnormal growths that can develop into cancer. The three main types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma, with melanoma being the most aggressive and deadly form.

Skin cancer checks allow for early detection of suspicious moles, spots, or lesions. Early-stage skin cancers are often easier to treat and have a higher survival rate. A professional skin examination by a dermatologist or your GP is thorough, but self-examinations also play a crucial role. Regularly checking your skin for changes in

size, colour, or shape of moles and looking for new growths or sores that don't heal can help catch issues early.

People at higher risk, including those with fair skin, a history of sunburns, excessive sun exposure, or a family history of skin cancer, should be particularly vigilant.

Skin cancer checks are a simple yet powerful tool in maintaining skin health. By prioritizing regular check-ups, individuals can reduce risk, catch problems early, and promote a proactive approach to long-term well-being.

If you have noticed any suspicious spots, moles or skin discolouration, seek your local GP's advice.



GRILLED BARRAMUNDI WITH MANGO SALSA

This summery, flavourful dish celebrates Australia's fresh seafood and tropical produce that is prevalent at this time of year.

Ingredients

For the barramundi:

- 4 barramundi fillets (or any firm white fish)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Salt and pepper, to taste

For the mango salsa:

- 1 ripe mango, diced
- 1/2 red capsicum (bell pepper), diced
- 1/4 red onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 red chili, finely chopped (optional)
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 tbsp fresh coriander (cilantro), chopped
- Salt, to taste

For serving:

- Steamed jasmine rice or mixed greens
- Lime wedges

Method

1. Prepare the mango salsa:

In a bowl, combine diced mango, red capsicum, red onion, chili (if using), lime juice, and coriander. Mix gently and season with salt to taste. Set aside.

2. Prepare the barramundi:

Preheat a grill or barbecue to medium-high heat. Pat the barramundi fillets dry with paper towels and rub them with olive oil, lemon zest, and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper.

3. Grill the barramundi:

Place the fillets skin-side down on the grill and cook for 3-4 minutes, depending on thickness. Flip and cook for another 2-3 minutes until the flesh is opaque and flaky.

4. Serve:

Plate the grilled barramundi with a generous scoop of mango salsa. Serve with jasmine rice or a fresh salad and lime wedges on the side.



WORD SEARCH

MANGO
PUBERTY
SKIN
CANCER
IMAGE
POSITIVE
SCHOOL
BODY
SLEEP
IMMUNE
GRATITUDE
GROWTH
RISK
SUNBURN
CHILDREN
CHRONIC



CENTRAL CITY MEDICAL CENTRE

● PRACTICE STAFF

Practice Manager:

Claire Stocks

Reception Staff:

Barbara, Kate, Lucy, Emma, Isabella, Hayley, Kendra & Meena

Admin:

Tracy, Christine, Anna & Chevaun

The philosophy of this practice is to provide comprehensive and thoughtful medical care. We work hard to keep up-to-date with the latest medical innovations and to bring efficient personal service.

● OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

- COVID-19 vaccinations
- Monkeypox Vaccinations
- Ear micro-suction
- Dietician
- Colposcopy
- Traveller Vaccinations
- Minor Surgery
- Spirometry
- Executive Medical Reviews
- Aviation Medicals
- ECG & Cardiac Risk Assessment
- Audiometry
- Pre-Employment Diving & Dive Medicals
- Central City Health Professionals including Chiropractor, Pilates, Podiatrist & Physiotherapy located next door – www.perthpainfree.com.au

● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Patient Feedback. We would like to hear about your concerns, complaints or suggestions. Please feel free to talk to your GP or the Practice Manager regarding any issues. If you prefer to make your concerns known outside the surgery, you can call the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office on 08 9323 0600 or 1800 813 583.

