

Our Patients

Clinic Services

Immunizations

The clinical team at Blackbutt Medical Centre provide a broad range of immunisation services, from childhood vaccines to specific travel vaccines.

- Childhood National Immunisation Program Vaccinations for 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 4 years and all catch-up vaccinations
- Adolescent and Secondary School age vaccinations, including catch up vaccinations for those who missed vaccinations at school or who have now left school.
- Vaccinations against cervical cancer (Gardasil)
- Adult vaccinations for Hepatitis B, Influenzas, Pneumonia and Whooping Cough
- All travel vaccinations including Yellow Fever
- Q Fever
- Accommodation of those with a fear of needles
- See Covid 19 Heading below

Diabetes Education

Our clinical team are highly skilled and experienced at management of both type I and type II Diabetes. We also utilise the services of Dieticians and visiting Diabetic Educators.

We can assist with:

- Understanding how your Diabetes affects you.
- Giving skilled advice to best improve your lifestyle and self-management.
- Reduce the risk of Diabetic complications
- Explaining your medications and their effects
- Advice and support in using insulin.
- Family involvement and support

Asthma Education

We believe it is important that all patients with asthma see their GP to devise an asthma management plan. We also assist with the following:

- Lung function assessment and testing
- Effective inhaler technique training
- Advice for management of exercise induced asthma
- Asthma Management Plans for children at school
- Personal long term plans to self manage your asthma
- Optimisation of your asthma medications and lung function

Chronic Disease Management

The doctors and nurses at Blackbutt Medical Centre work together to manage patients with chronic diseases such as asthma, coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and renal impairment.

Patients with a chronic disease are often eligible for a care plan giving them access to subsidised allied health services. We encourage all patients with a chronic illness to discuss a chronic health care plan with their GP.

Skin Cancer Clinic & Minor Procedures

At Blackbutt Medical Centre, we have skin doctors with a special interest in skin cancer checks, and additional training in the detection and removal of skin cancers.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. About two in three Australians will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer before the age of 70.

There are three main types of skin cancer:

- Basal Cell Carcinoma,
- Squamous Cell Carcinoma and
- Melanoma.

Basal Cell Carcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma are the most common types of skin cancer and are sometimes call non-melanoma skin cancer. Melanoma usually begins as a new small spot, mole or freckle that changes colour, shape or thickness over months.

Skin cancer occurs when skin cells are damaged, for example, by overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

A skin cancer check assesses your skin cancer risk and indicates any current skin problems of concern.

The skin cancer check includes taking your medical history, including previous sun UV exposure, as well as undertaking a detailed examination of your skin. If any moles or lesions have developed or changed in size or nature recently, our doctors will assess and recommend the necessary treatment.

We recommend you see your GP for a skin cancer check at least annually. As well as scheduling your annual assessment, you should see your GP should you notice any of the following signs:

- Changes in a mole size, shape or colour
- The edges of a mole have begun to change
- The mole starts and continues to grow
- The mole is not a solid brown colour, but multicoloured instead

If you notice any of the above, it is advised to book an appointment immediately with your GP for an examination. Your doctor will provide you with a thorough skin check, and scan for symptoms of larger issues.

There is no single method to treat all skin cancers and precancerous lesions. Choice of method is dictated by the size of the lesion, its location, its type (often confirmed by biopsy), and whether it is a primary or recurrent lesion.

Also considered is the patient's age, health, occupation and preference for treatment method.

Surgical procedures are carried out safely in a well-equipped treatment room with sterile instruments and surgical drapes and dressings.

Emphasis is placed on minimizing risk of infection, and ensuring patient safety, privacy and comfort.

Mental Health

The doctors at Blackbutt Medical Centre are trained to identify patients suffering from mental health concerns. Early detection, and treatment will lead to a more positive outcome for patients in almost all cases.

It is important to seek help from your GP if you are struggling with your mental health.

Addressing mental health issues is not always about medications, usually multiple factors need to be addressed in several different ways. This is what holistic health is all about.

The GPs at Blackbutt Medical Centre can get you in touch with the right professionals to help you with your condition long term, and you may even be eligible for a Medicare mental health care plan – giving you access to free or discounted psychological services.

Women's Health

The GPs at Blackbutt Medical Centre are able to provide help and advice regarding the large number of both physical and emotional issues impacting women today. Some of the things our doctors can help with are fertility and contraception (link to more info about these services), breast examinations, pap smears, sexual health, menopause, osteoporosis, anxiety and depression, diabetes, and blood pressure.

Men's Health

The GPs at Blackbutt Medical Centre understand Australian men and the health and emotional stresses they face.

We are here to assist men with any mental, emotional or physical problem they are facing. Men tend to need a little bit more help in seeking help, and following up on their health.

Our doctors understand this and are excellent at helping men address their particular health issues in an approachable and understandable way.

Children's Health

Our kids are the most important things in our lives, which is why many of the doctors at Blackbutt Medical Centre have a particular interest in children's health.

We can help with the majority of your children's health concerns. We offer immunisations both as part of the government schedule and optional extra vaccinations; we monitor children's health and development; treat accidents such as cuts that need stitching, minor bangs to the head, and plastering fractures. We can talk to you about your personal concerns and stresses, as well as make referrals to other service providers and support agencies.

All children under 16 years of age are bulk billed at our practice!

Acupuncture

Acupuncture is a technique which may assist in alleviating pain and other maladies. Dr. Daphene Connor is fully qualified in the practice of Acupuncture, as is able to provide this service for you at the practice in our dedicated Acupuncture room, if requested. Please speak to Dr. Connor to talk about the option of acupuncture or to schedule an acupuncture appointment.

At Blackbutt Medical Centre, Dr Connor, who specializes in acupuncture will provide a treatment plan that is tailored to suit each individual patient's needs. Our doctors recognize that each patient case is unique and therefore a full initial assessment is required to determine if acupuncture is right for you. Dr Connor is fully licensed and holds a special qualification in Acupuncture as endorsed by AHPRA (Medical Board of Australia).

Acupuncture can be used to help promote good health, energy and vitality. Acupuncture can be used in the management of pain, stress, insomnia, smoking, alcohol, weight, nausea, anxiety and a range of other medical conditions.

Please discuss with your doctor if acupuncture is suitable for you and ensure that you discuss any concerns prior to the commencement of any treatment. Acupuncture is available at the Blackbutt Medical Centre. Appointments for acupuncture are available Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 5.00pm with Dr Daphene Connor.

Health Assessments

Health Checks are important at different stages of life.

We have specific health checks for:

- 45-49 years who are at risk of developing a chronic disease;
- ATSI Health Checks;
- Heart Health Checks; and
- Annual Health Check for 75 years and over.

Drivers License Medicals

Employment & workers' comp

If you have been injured at work, we can support you through your recovery. Please note: We do not bill WorkCover directly unless you have a letter accepting your claim, with a claim number and billing information. If you do not have such a letter, we will bill you as normal and you will need to seek reimbursement from your employer or WorkCover.

Pre-Employment Medicals

Blackbutt Medical Centre offers a wide range of medicals including:

- Pre-employment Medicals
- Commercial Driving Medicals

Visiting Ancillary Health Professionals

- Therapy Services - OT & Speech
- Diabetes Educator
- Dieticians
- Exercise Physiologist
- Podiatrist
- Hearing Specialist
- Psychologists

Please speak to your GP or our reception staff to find out more or make an appointment with any of our visiting ancillary health team.

Iron Infusions

If you are anaemic or have trouble tolerating iron supplements, you could benefit from an iron infusion. An iron infusion delivers iron directly into the bloodstream through a vein. Iron is an essential mineral assisting the body to carry oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. There are risks and benefits to having an iron infusion, and your doctor can explain these to you at a consultation.

ATSI health

If you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, you are eligible for a government-funded annual health assessment. This is an appointment with one of our nurses and then a doctor, to review your current health & lifestyle (including physical, social and emotional wellbeing) and to develop a plan to ensure your good health now, and into the future.

COVID-19 Vaccination

Blackbutt Medical Centre is currently providing Astra Zenica COVID-19 vaccinations.

As vaccine numbers are still limited, this program is phased according to priority. Appointments will only be made available when vaccine stocks have arrived at the clinic. Please check at Reception regularly for vaccine and appointment availability.

COVID-19 vaccine eligibility is regularly updated by the Department of Health. To determine when you can get the vaccine, visit the [Eligibility Checker](#).

More information on COVID-19 vaccines can be found here in English [COVID-19 vaccines | Australian Government Department of Health](#) and other languages [COVID-19 vaccine information in your language | Australian Government Department of Health](#).

For further up to date information on COVID-19 vaccines, go to the [Australian Department of Health](#) or [Healthdirect](#)

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Pathology

Blackbutt Medical Centre provides onsite pathology for all patients.

When determining the treatment for an illness, your doctor at Blackbutt Medical Centre will often require information regarding changes in body tissue, blood or other body fluids. The process of examining these specimens is called pathology. Pathology assists doctors to diagnose and provide you with the best medical care.

Unlike many clinics, Blackbutt Medical Centre has the convenience of on-site pathology services through QML Pathology. By having such services on-site Blackbutt Medical Centre is able to make the process as quick, easy and comfortable for you as possible. The friendly and comfortable environment means that you can spend less time in the doctor's clinic.

Blackbutt Medical Centre provides on-site collection.

All blood tests and other forms of pathology once collected are sent to the relevant pathology laboratory. Once the result has been confirmed a report is sent to your doctor.

Opening Hours Monday – Friday: 8am-1pm