



URGENT UPDATE - 1 March 2026

NSW doctors face loss of independent doctors' health service following national funding changes from 1 January 2026

Doctors' Health NSW is a trusted, independent, confidential, doctor-led support service that has operated in New South Wales for more than 50 years.

Recent national funding changes now place our vital 24/7 phone support line at risk of closure.

Doctors' Health NSW is the only doctors' health service in NSW established by doctors, for doctors. Healthy, supported doctors provide safer, higher-quality patient care. Losing this independent service would affect doctors and medical students and the patients they care for.

Under the new arrangements, Doctors' Health NSW will be replaced by a centralised national doctors' health line. This model removes the arm's length distance from regulators and the existing independent governance of the NSW service. Callers would lose access to the local clinical knowledge and established relationships with NSW networks which allows our service to provide meaningful support.

Dr Ameeta Patel, Chair of Doctors' Health NSW, said: "Meaningful support for NSW doctors and medical students depends on local knowledge and strong local clinical networks."

In the past year, 345 doctors and medical students accessed confidential support through our 24/7 phone support line. More than 1,670 clinicians participated in Doctors' Health NSW education, peer connection and wellbeing programs.

Doctors and medical students who call our phone support line are often distressed or overwhelmed. All callers receive individual support from a doctor who understands the realities of medical practice. Callers are listened to and, where appropriate, supported to access local, clinically appropriate care.

Education and awareness are also core functions of Doctors' Health NSW. We equip doctors and medical students with practical strategies to protect their own health and wellbeing. We also ensure they know independent, confidential support is available 24/7. This work builds trust, reduces stigma and supports lasting culture change across the profession.

"Our priority is ensuring doctors and medical students across NSW can continue to access confidential, independent support," said Dr Kathryn Hutt, Medical Director of Doctors' Health NSW.

Doctors' Health NSW is seeking urgent financial support from government, stakeholders and the medical profession to ensure this essential, independent service can continue.

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