



in the news

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Paramedics head out on road with extended care

The first 12 Extended Care Paramedics are out on road this week in Western Sydney after completing their initial training as part of the Ambulance Extended Care Paramedic (ECP) program.

The ECPs will focus on patients with minor injuries and illnesses such as lacerations and wounds, sporting injuries, falls, and minor back pain and where appropriate, identify and initiate alternative non-emergency department care such as community GPs, co-located GPs, hospital based services, or community based services.

These new ECPs have been selected from experienced paramedics who are already highly trained, skilled and experienced in identifying emergency or high risk patients.

The paramedics have all undergone an initial eight week clinical training course at the University of Sydney Nepean Clinical School but will have continuing ongoing clinical training.

“Traditionally, when paramedics respond to calls for assistance patients have had only two options: to be transported to a hospital emergency department or to refuse or decline transport,” says Dr Jason Bendall, Ambulance Extended Care Paramedic Manager.

“This program is about providing more options for patients, beyond just refusing or declining transport to an ED.” Dr Bendall said.



Extended care paramedics following their graduation ceremony at Rozelle.

The ECP program is based on the United Kingdom’s Emergency Care Practitioner program that has been piloted for approximately five years. Our program has been tailored for NSW in collaboration with key stakeholders including NSW Health, area health services, hospitals, divisions of general practice and Ambulance with each contributing to the design of a program aimed at meeting local needs.

Twelve extended care paramedics will operate in Sydney’s west. They will be based at Penrith Ambulance Station and will cover the areas serviced by the Penrith, Springwood, Warragamba, Richmond, Tregear and Colyton Ambulance Stations.

They will be a significant enhancement to the provision of ambulance services in the Western Sydney community.

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