



20 April 2007

New arrangements for blood testing in Esperance

Free blood testing will continue in Esperance for now although new arrangements are in place.

Given the drop in demand, from next month the service will be provided by PathWest laboratory at Esperance Hospital.

Goldfields public health physician Dr Charles Douglas said the specialist clinic was initially set up to relieve pressure on the town's general practitioners.

"More than 1700 people have attended the clinic during that time and we will continue to review the service regularly and modify it according to demand," he said.

"We now have a total of 1746 results through, with 22 people so far recording blood lead levels above the recommended guidelines.

"We will continue to provide individual advice to people with levels above 10 mcg/dl and we are also looking at children under five years with levels five mcg/dl and above to help with investigations and to look at ways to reduce further exposure."

Appointments at the lead testing clinic are available until Friday 27 April by calling (08) 9071 0891.

After that date, blood tests at the PathWest laboratory will be available between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday and will not require an appointment or doctor's referral.

This does not apply to repeat tests, which must be ordered by a doctor.

People should continue to call (08) 9071 0891 for all enquires about blood lead testing or to obtain results.

**Media contact: (08) 9489 2888**