

JUNE - JULY 2020 EDITION

FREE TO TAKE HOME!



Telehealth



Connecting teenagers



Colds & flu



How to manage stress

● PRACTICE DOCTORS

Dr Ivan Jansz

MBBS, Dip RACOG, DA(UK), FRACGP
Family General Practice, Anaesthetics, Shared
Care Obstetrics, Skin problems, General
Medicine, Pain Management

Dr Darryn Rennie

MBBS, FRACGP, DipACSCM
General Family Medicine, Skin Cancer, Children's
Health

Dr Kate Harding

BM(UK)DO, FRNZCGP, FRACGP
General Family Medicine

Dr Andrew Kirke

MBBS, FACRRM, FRACGP, DRANZCOG, DTMH
Family General Practice, GP Obstetrics

Dr Yien Peng Chin

MBBS, FRACGP, DipChildHealth
General Family Medicine, Children's Health

Dr Adina Codreanu

MD, FRACGP, DRCOG, MRCP, DFFP
General Family Medicine, Women's Health,
Family Planning and Chronic Disease

Dr Narelle Rodsjo

MBBS, FRACGP
Family medicine, Women's and Children's
Health, Musculoskeletal and Sporting Injuries

*The practice doctors are experienced
in the broad range of general practice
problems and the treatment of all age
groups.*

● PRACTICE STAFF

Practice Manager: Karen Hudson

Nurses: Rhona Morrison (RN, RM) &
Lucy Webb-Martin (RN)

Receptionists: Raelene, Deb, Mandy,
Claire & Breanna

● SURGERY HOURS

Monday.....7.00am-5.00pm

Tuesday - Friday.....8.30am-5.00pm

Saturday.....8.30am-11.30am

● AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

Dalyellup Family Medical Centre
provides after hours care within the
practice.

Please phone **9795 6422** for the
on-call number, or attend Bunbury
Regional Hospital Emergency
Department **9722 1000**.

A/H GP helpline **1800 022 222**.

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

● BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

Private patients will pay a gap beyond the Medicare refund. This varies
according to the complexity of service or if a procedure is performed.

We expect the account to be settled at the time of consultation. Gap
payments may be allowed in consultation with the Doctor. Payment
can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS. Please bring
your Medicare card and any concession cards to your appointment.

We will bulk bill Pension Card Holders, children under 12 years and
routine immunisations. Health Care Card and Commonwealth Seniors
Card holders will be given a discounted fee.

A fee will apply for all procedural work, Saturday and evening surgery
appointments.

Repeat Prescriptions may be issued at times but will attract a fee if
there is no consultation.

● APPOINTMENTS

Consultation is by appointment. Urgent cases will be seen by an
available doctor on the day.

Appointment Bookings. Appointments can be made online by going
to www.dfmc.com.au or by calling the Practice on **9795 6422**.

Booking a long appointment. If you want an insurance medical, review of
a complex health problem, counselling for emotional difficulties, or a
second opinion, please book a longer appointment. This may involve a
longer wait but your problem will get the attention it deserves. Please
bring relevant letters and test results from other doctors.

It may not always be possible to see additional family members if only
a single appointment has been made.

Home Visits. Your request for a home visit will be decided on in
discussion with the doctor.

Results. All results are reviewed as soon as possible by the doctor. You
may access relevant comments regarding your results by contacting
the Surgery.

**Telehealth and phone consultations are currently available during
the COVID crisis.**

● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Dr Jansz & Dr Rennie have admitting rights to St John of God Hospital,
Bunbury.

Referrals. Doctors in this practice are competent at handling all the
common health problems. When necessary, they are able to draw on
opinion from Specialists, and if need be, refer you for further
investigation. You can discuss this openly with your doctor.

Telephoning your doctor. Although most problems are best dealt
with in consultation, a doctor will always be available during normal
surgery hours for emergency advice. Our staff are experienced in
helping you decide whether the matter requires an appointment, a
return phone call from the practice, or urgent advice.

Patient Feedback. We welcome your comments or suggestions.
Please feel free to talk to your GP or the Practice Manager regarding
any issues. If you prefer, you can contact Health and Disability Services
Complaints Office on 1800 813 583.

Patient Privacy. This practice protects your personal health information
to ensure it is only available to authorised staff members for the
intended purposes and to comply with the Privacy Act. To obtain a copy
of our Privacy Statement or your medical records, please ask.

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

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



Telehealth

The term telehealth has generally not been used outside medical circles. It applies to use of technology (video or phone) to deliver medical services.

In response to the Covid-19 situation the federal government has, for the first time, allowed Medicare funding to support consultations with your doctor that are not in person. Consultations can be done through video conference or telephone. Currently this is set to continue till September 30. It may be extended.

The Chief Medical Officer has highlighted that ongoing medical conditions have not disappeared and need ongoing attention. High blood pressure, diabetes, depression and a host of other medical conditions continue to need treatment and monitoring.

New health concerns also need to be dealt with.

Telehealth consultations can be booked in a similar way to regular appointments. Ask your practice staff about their procedures. If needed prescriptions can be picked up or sent directly to a nominated chemist. Referrals can also be collected or sent directly.

There are limitations as to what can be done when a patient is not in the same room as the doctor. For example, one cannot listen to the lungs. One of the requirements of a telehealth consultation is that you understand that it may be necessary to follow up with a clinic visit.

Surgeries are right on top of social distancing and hygiene requirements so the risk in attending remains low.

This is a new world for everyone so there may be some glitches or teething problems. Be understanding of this.

The most critical point is do not ignore your general health at this time.

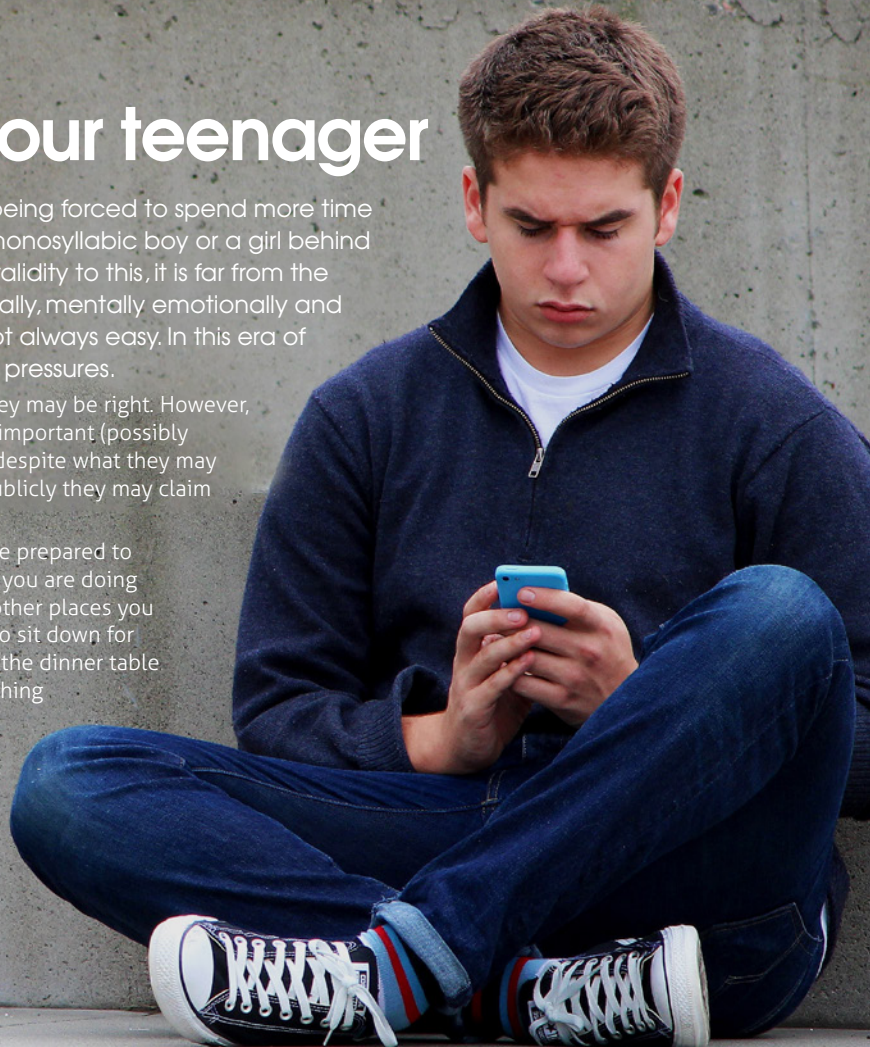
Connecting with your teenager

Social distancing has meant parents and teens are being forced to spend more time together. The stereotype of the teenager is either a monosyllabic boy or a girl behind a slammed shut bedroom door. Whilst there is some validity to this, it is far from the whole story. Adolescence is a time of change, physically, mentally emotionally and socially. The transition from being a child to adult is not always easy. In this era of social media and smart phones, there are additional pressures.

Parents often lament that their teenagers do not listen, and they may be right. However, communication is a two-way street. This means listening is as important (possibly more so) than talking to your teens. We know that teenagers (despite what they may say) are still wanting guidance and parental support. Whilst publicly they may claim to know it all, deep down there is still insecurity.

Look for common interests. Talk about topics that they raise. Be prepared to talk when they are ready to open up about a situation (even if you are doing something else). Be opportunistic. When driving to school or other places you have a captive audience. This can be a good time to talk. Aim to sit down for dinner with your teen at least a few times a week. Talk around the dinner table can be revealing. No matter how many times the answer is nothing much, ask each day how was school or what happened in your day?

Communication is the key to connecting. Ask your own parents how they coped with you. Talk to your doctor about any concerns you have about your teenager.



Dry Eye

The eyes need constant lubrication which is provided by the tear glands.

Eyes become dry for two main reasons. Firstly, tears can evaporate too quickly. This can be on planes, in air conditioning, in dry air or smoky conditions. It is temporary and improved by use of lubricant drops and removing yourself (where possible) from the situation. Secondly it can be due to reduced tear production. This can be with advancing age, various medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, lupus Sjogren's syndrome scleroderma), certain medications (e.g. antihistamines, antidepressants, blood pressure tablets), and tear gland damage through trauma.

Other risk factors include being female, use of contact lenses and having low vitamin A levels. Symptoms are a burning itching stinging or dry feeling in the eye. The eyes may become red and sensitive to light. Blurry vision can follow.


Diagnosis is largely on symptoms and a thorough eye examination. Blood tests would be done to rule out underlying conditions. You may be referred to an ophthalmologist.



Complications include eye infections and damage to the eye surface. Fortunately, these can be largely avoided.

Treatment depends on cause. In most cases you will be recommended eye drops to keep the eyes moist. These may be used multiple times a day. Avoiding situations where

dryness would be aggravated is important (where practical). Try to stay inside on windy days or when there is smoke in the air and wear sunglasses when outside. Take breaks when using screens for long periods of time and position your screen below eye level so you tend to look downwards. This can reduce evaporation.

 <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/dry-eye>



Prevent the spread of colds & flu

Despite Covid19, "normal winter cold and flu viruses have not disappeared.

There are various theories around why they are usually more prevalent in winter, but nobody really knows. There is much we can do to reduce the spread. Viruses are spread by airborne droplets. Covering your mouth when you cough makes a big difference as does sneezing into a hanky or tissue. Wash your hands. Sanitiser is not essential. Soap and water are fine.

Typically, people try to soldier on with a virus on board. Covid19 has changed that. Those not working at home need to stay home when unwell. This not only helps you get better quicker, but more importantly it makes it less likely you will pass it on to others. Air-conditioned offices make our work life more comfortable but are a great ally to viruses wanting to spread so stay home when sick!

There are no force fields but many ways you can make it less likely you will catch a virus. Regular exercise has been shown to strengthen the immune system, but it is wise to cease or at least reduce exercise while unwell. Eating a healthy diet with adequate fruits and vegetables and getting enough sleep also helps. Managing stress (e.g. meditation guided relaxation herbal teas) has been shown to benefit immunity as does having adequate vitamin D levels.

Going forward the importance of preventing spread, including staying away from others when not well will hopefully stay with us.




Oral Thrush

Caused by the fungus *Candida albicans*, thrush can affect different parts of the body, most commonly the genitals and the mouth and throat.

Oral thrush will typically cause white plaques in the mouth and throat. There may be surrounding redness. They are not painful. Risk factors include having diabetes, being on steroids (including asthma sprays containing steroid) and having dentures. It is also more common after chemotherapy or radiotherapy and sometimes after courses of antibiotics. Interestingly it is estimated that the fungus may sit dormant (not causing any symptoms) in 75% of the world's population.

Treatment is with antifungal drops or lozenges. Rinsing the mouth with salty water can be helpful in some cases. For those who have asthma, gargling with salty water after using inhalers can help prevent oral thrush.

Many mouthwashes kill off the good bacteria in the mouth enabling thrush to grow. Beware of excessive use of these.

 https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/178864#risk_factor_oral_thrush



How to manage stress

Stress is claimed to be the scourge of the 21st century. Covid 19 has added to this as has the economic impacts we are seeing. Even in normal circumstances it doesn't seem to matter who you talk to; everyone feels stressed at some stage.

Relationships, money and work are usually shown in polling to be the big three. Our body reacts to stress today like it did in caveman days. It goes into fight or flight mode with the release hormones like adrenalin and cortisol which were very helpful when the threat had a physical solution and would be over soon (for better or worse). It is not so helpful with the type of stressors we face today.

However, there is much we can do to manage stress. Regular exercise is a great stress beater. It can be as simple as going for a walk. Listening to calming music, doing slow deep breathing or guided meditations can be helpful to. There are many apps which are designed to help

people deal with stress and many are free. Drinking herbal tea helps some people as does keeping a journal or writing things down. Drink mainly water and do not drink alcohol to excess. Try to minimise sugar in your diet. Taking a short break, if possible, may help.

Ultimately dealing with the source of the stress is paramount. Remember you don't always have to do this alone. For many chatting with your GP or a counsellor (which can be done online or via phone) can be beneficial, as can talking with trusted friends or family. Others may see solutions that you don't.

Stress can lead to mental health problems so see your GP if you have any concerns.

 <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/staying-well/reducing-stress>

WORD SEARCH

Z I L B D C O F L F U E G Q U
F R T G N C Q H C S V P A K L
H U O R A L T H R U S H R T U
Z T H U W I V I K V F D Z J D
Z A Z R P H P Z B W T Z S M U
L H O H M Q E S T T O X U C A
S E O A E Y M T Q H S J A U L
L A F D K Z H R G H U R F R T
J L A D H G U E U C G Q I B E
V T O I W C C S O X O Z W A E
D H K N B H C S B S V O R F N
C N D R Y E Y E S I D K V T A
M E K H U C I V L F G F W S G
Y W V Z T E L E H E A L T H E
P S T V F M K M L Z J U K C R

ORALTHRUSH
TELEHEALTH
HEALTHNEWS
DRYEYES
TEENAGER
STRESS
FLU



Dalyellup Family Medical Centre

● OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

- Comprehensive health assessment for patients 75 years of age and older which includes a home visit by our nurse.
- Employment & Pre-Employment medicals with secure Drug & Alcohol testing collection.
- Full pathology collection services.
- All routine immunisations.
- Full time Practice Nurse/Midwife for routine blood pressure and blood sugar, wound dressings, etc.
- Specialist Nurse qualified to do cervical screening and women's health education.
- **Dalyellup Skin Care Clinic operates in the same building as Dalyellup Family Medical Centre.**

Services provided include:

- Skin cancer screening using Dermoscopy
- Treatment of pre-cancerous skin spots
- Biopsy and treatment of skin cancers
- Digital surveillance of atypical skin spots
- Total body photography
- General dermatology
- Corporate skin checks.

● DR DARRYN RENNIE

Dr Darryn Rennie is a GP with an interest in Skin Cancer Medicine, and he has a Diploma in Skin Cancer Medicine from the Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine.

● PRIVATE BILLING

Private billing applies to skin checks. A fee applies to procedures, with a portion of the fee claimable from Medicare.

