



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Vaccination innovation kicks off new medical centre in Canberra's North

After six months of delivering medical services to local families in Canberra's north and pioneering innovative vaccination programs during the ACT's latest COVID-19 outbreak, KENOLTA Medical Centre at Gold Creek in Nicholls is finally enjoying its official opening.

"When our doors opened in May this year, it would have been impossible to think that our formal opening would be delayed until November," said KENOLTA's co-founder Dr Joe Oguns.

"The past few months have been very challenging for Canberra, but now lockdown has lifted and we are all getting on with it, learning to live with COVID as we must."

A large practice offering a wide range of medical services, KENOLTA Medical Centre was opened officially today by Senator for the Australian Capital Territory and Minister for International Development and the Pacific, the Hon Zed Seselja.

The practice was founded by Dr Joe Oguns and Dr Taiye Oguns who identified the need for a new Medical Centre in Canberra's North, having previously lived in Ngunnawal and worked in general practice in West Belconnen for almost a decade. The opening months in the midst of the ACT's recent COVID outbreak have brought both challenges and opportunities for the fledgling practice.

"We invested in Safe Clinical Practice to ensure we kept our doors open and continued to deliver face to face consultations through the entire lockdown period," Dr Joe Oguns said.

"And we were at the forefront of vaccination initiatives that positively impacted Canberrans across the city. This included establishing the Gold Creek Vaccination Hub - a mass vaccination facility located adjacent to our clinic premises - and partnering with the Fyshwick Business Association and Master Builders ACT to successfully deliver Canberra's only drive-through COVID-19 vaccination clinics."

The Team at KENOLTA delivered priority vaccinations to 12 to 18 year-olds specifically aimed at fully vaccinating them ahead of their return to school for face to face learning and also worked with a local radio station to deliver a walk-in mass vaccination day where no bookings were required.

Opening the centre, Minister Seselja congratulated the Oguns on the establishment of their clinic and acknowledged their contribution to the high levels of COVID vaccination achieved in the ACT.

"The ACT community is a world leader in rolling up our sleeves to be vaccinated, and I thank the KENOLTA Medical Centre for their efforts in helping to make it easier for Canberrans to get their jab.

"It is also great to see improved access to primary healthcare for families in this rapidly-growing region in Canberra's north.

"I wish the KENOLTA Medical Centre, and its staff and patients well as the practice grows."



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Located at Gold Creek Nicholls, KENOLTA Medical Centre is a purpose-designed, modern, medical facility easily accessible to Gungahlin, Belconnen and City residents. Just off the Barton Highway, it has a bus stop nearby as well as ample free parking on-site and is next door to Canberra's first drive-through Discount Pharmacy. The centre offers a wide range of medical services and has a large and comfortable waiting area (enabling appropriate social distancing), eight consulting rooms, two surgical/treatment rooms, a training room, accessible and ambulant toilet facilities, all weather indoor and outdoor play areas for children, and wheelchair access to every part of the facility.

"We wanted to address the ongoing medical workforce need in Gold Creek which has previously failed to attract a general practice, and this location is readily accessible to patients from Gungahlin, Belconnen and the City as well," Dr Oguns said.

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***Dr Joe Oguns - MBBS, MMed(Fam Med), Grad Dip OEH, FRACGP***

Joe trained and worked in South Africa, Botswana, Nigeria, and Queensland, before moving to Canberra in 2012. With more than 9yrs of practice in the West Belconnen district (including about 7 years as the medical director of the National Health Coop), Joe has been contributing significantly to delivery of primary care, clinical governance and training of doctors locally in Canberra. Joe has special interests in family medicine, men's health, geriatrics/care of older citizens, minor surgical procedures, and occupational health.

***Dr Taiye Oguns - MBBS, MMed(Fam Med), CWH, FRACGP***

Taiye has clinical practice and post graduate training experience in Nigeria, South Africa and Australia. She has been a local GP servicing the West Belconnen district of Canberra for more than nine years. She also holds a Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Gynaecologists Certificate in Women's Health. In her roles as a Medical Board of Australia approved Supervisor for Limited registration practitioners and an accredited AGPT GP registrar supervisor with GP Synergy, Taiye has made significant contributions to the training and mentoring of GP registrars and doctors over a number of years. Taiye has special interests in women's health (including IUD insertions), antenatal and postnatal care, children's health and family medicine.