

# Autism clinic opens in Broadmeadows

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TEAM LEADER RITTA ASSAAD (FRONT) WITH AUTISM ASSESSMENT TEAM MEMBERS SHARON, KATE, RHENU, FRANCESCA AND DEBU. PICTURE: SHAWN SMITS.

A new autism clinic is aiming to prevent Hume parents waiting more than 12 months to have their children assessed.

The Dianella Health Autism Assessment Clinic opened in Broadmeadows last week, making it easier for parents to seek help and support for their children.

Dianella Health chief executive Neil Cowen said the health service opened the clinic because it was concerned by the length of assessment waiting lists and the toll they took on families.

“Our team have over 30 years professional experience within the autism sector. Many of them have lived experience, knowing the difficulties of not receiving an answer or waiting on assessment wait lists for over 12 months,” he said.

“By that time, parents are exhausted emotionally and physically.”

“Statistics show early intervention can help people with autism live full lives.”

The clinic has been designed to assess children aged three to seven, with assessments done over three weeks.

Families will receive a report and referrals if needed.

The clinic is at 42 Coleraine Street, Broadmeadows.

<http://www.starweekly.com.au/news/autism-clinic-opens-in-broadmeadows/>