

Cash helps clinics offer after-hours health care

THREE clinics in Hume have received a healthy boost to put towards after-hours medical services.

Craigieburn Central Medical Clinic along with Dianella Community Health and Hillcrest Healthcare in Broadmeadows were among 13 organisations to receive a share of \$800,000 from the Melbourne Primary Care Network to enable services outside of business hours.

For the Craigieburn clinic, it means opening hours will be extended to 9pm on weekdays.

Dianella Community Health's GP Super Clinic will open on weeknights and weekends, while Hillcrest Health will offer GP and other services until 11pm weeknights.

North Western Melbourne Primary Care Network's chief executive, Adjunct Associate Professor Christopher Carter, said having accessible after-hours care was crucial for communities.

"If local services aren't available or aren't known about then hospital emergency rooms become the only option," he said.

Details: Melbourne Primary Care Network, 9347 1188.