

Diabetes a major challenge for Victoria

The Victorian electorates of Thomastown, Dandenong and Broadmeadows have some of the highest rates of diabetes in the state, according to a new interactive geo-spatial diabetes map released yesterday.

The Australian Diabetes Map provides an up-to-date picture of diabetes prevalence for all states and territories – with details also available by Commonwealth and State electorate, local government area, and even by postcode. For the first time, the diabetes map also includes data for the new Primary Health Networks.

Diabetes Victoria CEO: Craig Bennett said the Australian Diabetes Map showed the extent of the challenge diabetes poses to Victoria. “Diabetes is a major health challenge confronting Victoria and, unless we act, it could threaten the long-term viability of our health system,” Mr Bennett said.

“The Australian Diabetes Map is a powerful tool to help governments, Primary Health Networks, policy makers and planners to deliver diabetes care and programs to the people who need them most.”

“This includes supporting and educating people with diabetes to ensure they can self-monitor and confidently manage their diabetes – to avoid serious complications, which can often necessitate costly hospital admissions.”

Mr Bennett said that, while Thomastown had the highest diabetes prevalence rate of 7.5% for all types of diabetes, a number of other communities also had very high rates – such as Dandenong, Broadmeadows and Mulgrave in metropolitan Melbourne and Derrimut, Rippon, Swan Hill, Rodney, Kororoit and Morwell in rural and regional Victoria.

Mr Bennett said it was important that Victorians act now to meet these challenges.

“When it comes to diabetes, no one is winning. In the past year, more than 27,000 Victorians were diagnosed with diabetes and we know, from an audit published in the MJA last year, that at least one in four public hospital beds are occupied by people with diabetes or related complications,” Mr Bennett said.

“The updated Australian Diabetes Map provides an unprecedented opportunity for health services to tailor support for people affected by diabetes in their communities.”

The Australian Diabetes Map, developed as part of the National Diabetes Services Scheme, is the only national geo-spatial map monitoring the prevalence of diabetes in Australia by variables including diabetes type, age, gender and levels of socio-economic disadvantage. The Australian Diabetes Map can be accessed here: <http://www.diabetesmap.com.au/#/>

The National Diabetes Services Scheme is an initiative of the Commonwealth Government, administered by Diabetes Australia. The NDSS agent in Victoria is Diabetes Victoria.

*Diabetes Victoria **supports, empowers and campaigns** for all Victorians affected by diabetes.*

**For more
information:**

Lyn Curtis 0411 019 924 lcurtis@diabetesvic.org.au

Sybille Taylor 0408 102 344 staylor@diabetesvic.org.au