



ShireBiz Bulletin

The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter

26th March 2024

**If you would like to receive this bulletin on a regular basis
contact the Secretary on info@shirebiz.org.au**

Public Service Announcement: Finding the needed Health Service in the Shire

At the two meetings of the Shirebiz Health Industry Forum held in October and last week it was pointed out that Shire residents have difficulties in finding a health service after normal hours. This is particularly prevalent for parents with young children who often come home from work and find a child is sick or had a minor accident.

To find the needed health service in the Shire go to <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services> and enter your post code. This website lists the services, their hours of operation and the status of bulk-billing for their service. The recently opened [Caringbah Medicare Urgent Health Clinic](#) was established with NSW Government funding and is designed to treat lower-level ailments and injuries.

The service is open 365 days a year from 8am to 8pm, allowing people to access treatment outside usual GP hours. It is staffed by GPs and nurses with rapid access to diagnostic services including radiology and pathology.

To access the service, patients should call Healthdirect on 1800 022 222. A registered nurse will assess the patient's condition and guide them to the care they need, including booking an appointment at the service on the patient's behalf or escalating their care to other services if required.

Medicare card holders and community-based asylum seekers can present to the urgent care service and are bulk-billed.

CEDA: Australia's economy weakens as cost of living pressures continue to bite

With the Federal Budget due in less than two months, critical issues that matter for Australia's future prosperity are coming to the fore. Treasurer Jim Chalmers joined us on the CEDA stage late last week in his [pre-Budget address](#). The tone of his comments reflected the challenges of an economy that's weakening while many face significant cost-of-living pressures. You can see a recap of the event [here](#) and read his speech [here](#).

CSIRO Snapshot March 2024

Includes: CSIRO achieves record efficiency for next-gen roll-to-roll printed solar cells; CSIRO appoints new Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness Director; Synthetic biology advances to generate \$30B opportunity for Australia and One million extra 'AI' scholarships available to Australians.

Why Mental Health Generational Differences Matter

Older employees from the Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, and Generation X generally had fewer [mental health support](#) demands when they started working.

Millennials are inclined to be more vocal about their mental health needs, while Generation Z, on the other hand, lacks experience in seeking mental health-related assistance.

Australian Government R&D Tax Insider March 2024

In this edition: Guide to software activities in the R&DTI Customer story - Archer Materials Using the clinical trials determination in your application; RSP applications now available through the portal; Did you know... "failed" experiments are still eligible? Quick tip: don't copy and paste your activity descriptions.

31 energy saving tips to slash your business energy costs

It's no secret that Aussie businesses have been bearing the [brunt of energy price shocks](#), especially over the last 18 months. We're living in an era where business

energy efficiency isn't just a trend - it's a necessity. Businesses of all sizes are feeling the pinch of rising energy costs and the pressing need to reduce their carbon footprint. But in reality, how can a business really reduce their overall energy consumption, and by default, their energy bill?

Sutherland Shire Council – Update on local housing strategy

In late 2023 and before we were able to finalise the [draft Strategy](#) to share with our community for feedback, significant planning reforms were proposed by the NSW Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure. As State reform may have significant impacts to housing capacity and delivery in local areas, Council has resolved to defer the draft Local Housing Strategy and the draft Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme until the impact of the reforms are known.

Apply for the Medtech Actuator Program 2024

Last month we [opened applications in Australia and Singapore](#) for our 9th Accelerator startup cohort, we will close the submission portal on 29 March – if you are keen to get involved and catalyse your health venture globally, please check out the details [here](#). If the current applications are anything to go by, we are expecting a very strong cohort for 2024. We are also excited to announce that applications are now open for the Desafía Singapore & Australia 2024 program

Heart Research Institute March 2024: *Today's Research Tomorrow's cure*

The Heart Research Institute (HRI) is officially celebrating 35 years of [life-saving research](#)! As we recognise this huge milestone, we'll be [sharing more about HRI's history](#), how we've grown and some of our major breakthroughs. Also this month, [a three-year study by HRI](#) has found that a common vegetable could prevent and treat one of the nation's biggest killers

ARA: Australia Post Online Shopping Report 2024

Key takeaways from [the report](#): 9.5 million households shopped online in the past

year, that's 82% of all Australian households; 1.4% year-on-year (YoY); Baby Boomers spent almost; \$1 billion more than they did the previous year and Average basket size was \$98, 4.6% from last year.

NSW Productivity Report: What we get by building more homes in the right places

The paper discusses how policymakers can unlock more homes in high-demand locations by: recognising the benefits, not just the costs, of allowing more people to live in existing areas, and listening to a broader range of people—including prospective residents; focusing on providing access to high-quality open space and taking a more strategic and balanced approach to heritage protection

About Shirebiz

ShireBiz is a not for profit organisation dedicated to the Economic Development of Southern Sydney to enable sustainable business development which provides employment opportunities for the local community.

Our strategic pillars are:

- Advocacy for business investment, traction and job diversity eg projects such as supporting *the development of the ANSTO Innovation precinct*
- Advocacy for infrastructure investment, policy change and streamlining regulatory environments in the Sutherland Shire
- Engaging the community through regular *newsletter*, and *events*

Shirebiz would like to thank our supporters for your support over the last year

Shirebiz supporters are invited to continue to support Shirebiz by becoming members. Join at If you want to regularly receive this Bulletin Contact the Secretary at info@shirebiz.org.au. We would also appreciate feedback on the content.



Regards,

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