

Quilpie Community – Medical Services

Dear Community Member

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to provide an update on the medical officer position at Quilpie and address the ongoing community interest and concern regarding the provision of medical services.

I am pleased to inform you that Quilpie has experienced minimal gaps in medical services recently. We have been successful in securing regular locums and our medical calendar reflects only a few remaining vacancies.

As previously mentioned, Australia is currently facing a significant shortage of healthcare professionals, particularly in rural and remote areas like Quilpie. This shortage has made it increasingly challenging to recruit staff for our communities. Despite our efforts to employ agency or locum doctors, the national GP crisis has intensified, and we have faced difficulties in securing agency support.

At present, the Quilpie General Practice has a locum doctor, Dr Ben Vogelzang who is in Quilpie until Thursday 29 June 2023. Dr Max Higgs will then assume an onsite contract for two weeks until Dr Vogelzang returns. Dr Vogelzang has committed to being a regular doctor in Quilpie on a rotational basis until the end of the year. We are pleased to see the dedication of these locum doctors to the Quilpie community, ensuring continuous medical support throughout 2023.

As you are aware, our medical recruitment team works tirelessly to secure locums. However, there may be instances where locums who have indicated their intention to provide clinical services in Quilpie may cancel their assignments at short notice. In such cases, we will communicate any changes to the community through our Facebook page and the Quilpie Medical Practice.

Quilpie remains included in our frequently advertised vacancies, and we continue to actively seek long-term medical professionals for your community.

For after-hours or emergency presentations, our nurses at Quilpie Multipurpose Health Service (MPHS) are trained to assess your needs. They can consult with a doctor when necessary and also collaborate with the Telehealth Emergency Management Support Unit (TEMSU) and Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ). These expert services offer videoconference support to rural and remote areas, along with aeromedical retrievals, ensuring access to specialized medical care.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Quilpie community for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Securing rural and remote doctors requires a collaborative effort between the government, healthcare providers and communities. By

working together, we can ensure that Quilpie residents have access to the medical care they need for healthy and fulfilling lives.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Nursing Jenna Nunn at the Quilpie MPHS if you would like to provide any feedback or please feel free to send any feedback through to our SWHHS-Consumer_Feedback@health.qld.gov.au.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.



Dr Anthony Brown
Health Service Chief Executive

28 June 2023