

Quilpie Community – Medical Services

Dear Community Member

Further to my last community letter of 30 August 2023, I am pleased to provide an update on the provision of medical services in the Quilpie community and what South West Hospital and Health Service is doing to address and maintain services.

It is pleasing to inform you once again that Quilpie has experienced minimal gaps in medical services recently as we continue to secure regular locums with our medical calendar reflecting only a few remaining vacancies.

At present, the Quilpie General Practice continues to have a number of regular locum doctors. Dr Ben Vogelzang, Dr Janith De Silva, Dr Martin Byrne, and Dr Geoff Cox who will be on a rotational basis until the end of the year. The dedication and commitment of these locum doctors to the Quilpie community has ensured 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.

We will be looking to recruit a full-time Nurse Practitioner (NP) to work alongside our medical team. This approach has proven beneficial in other communities within the South West, helping mitigate against medical officer vacancies. Nurse Practitioners are highly skilled and can perform a wide range of activities that would enhance the healthcare services available to you.

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.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding during these times of workforce challenges. The pursuit of rural and remote doctors demands a collaborative effort between government, healthcare providers and communities.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in ensuring the best possible healthcare for Quilpie. 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.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anthony Brown
Health Service Chief Executive
2 November 2023