

Please contact Mr Tony Donoghue

Council Ref. TD:CCA:H.03-01

Your Ref.



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21 April 2020

Cr Linda Scott
President
Local Government NSW
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Dear Linda

SUPPORT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND SERVICES IN REGIONAL, RURAL & REMOTE AREAS

Coolamon Shire Council has been proactive in providing the type of health facilities that our community needs. This has not occurred over the last couple of years but has been a sustained effort over a considerable amount of time.

To just take the last couple of years financial support and projected costs does not reflect the overall work that has gone into providing the services that are available in the Shire. From the first provision of land when they were going to close the hospital in the 1990's to undertaking a \$1.5M upgrades this year to the Council owned and managed residential aged care facility, mean that Council now has available the type of infrastructure that helps attract health professionals. This has been a slow build-up of resources that has required significant community support (directly through fundraising) and Council action.

But this does not mean that we are not continuing the struggle to adequately and appropriately service the health care needs of our community

- Council owns and operates a 33 bed residential aged care service – annual \$2.5M budget. Capital value of \$25M
- Council operate Allawah Community Care – Home Care Packages – 57 + packages
- Council is a CHSP provider (\$113K annual government funding) & Community Transport provider (\$112K annual government funding)
- Doctor/dentist surgery in Coolamon – Council owned and provides subsidised rent. Capital Value \$700K
- Doctors surgery in Ganmain – own and provided subsidised rent. Capital Value \$450K
- Previously owned premises in Ardlethan for Doctors Surgery but negotiated location into Community health centre (built by community)
- Own the land that the Coolamon MPS & Coolamon Community Health is located on and nil rent
- Provided land (\$100K value) and an additional \$100K cash contribution to facilitate the location of an ambulance station in Coolamon
- Provide rooms in the Community centre for allied health professionals
- Built a house for the doctor \$500K – doctor has since purchased from Council Previously provided housing to doctors in Coolamon.

- Provide immigration support for prospective new doctor, registered nurse etc
- Provide training support for education RN, EN, CSE's. This has become necessary due to trouble finding staff and required a 'grow your own' approach to these required skills

In addition to supporting the above, Council also supports the aged into affordable or retirement housing. This has a strong link with the health services that are provided

- Own and manage 24 self-care aged units in Coolamon. – capital value of \$7.5M
- Own and manage 20 single bed (over 55) low income units in Coolamon and Ardlethan – Capital value of \$3M

As can be seen, the health support provided is substantial, but it is acknowledged that some of these are businesses in their own right. Council operates these primarily to provide the service but also obtains an income.

We do not seek or obtain substantial "shareholder" returns, but aim for revenue neutral outcomes. After all, increasing "shareholder" returns only negatively impacts on the individual's health benefits and services we can provide or support.

Thankyou for the advocacy that this issue needs and please advise if you require any further details

Yours sincerely



Tony Donoghue
General Manager