

19 March 2019

Gingin Medical Centre FAQs

Why has Council closed the practice and removed both doctors from the surgery?

The Shire has not closed the Gingin Medical Practice, nor has it removed any doctor.

The Gingin Medical Practice is a private business run and owned by Dr Smit with an agreement to utilise the Shire's centre. This Occupancy Agreement has been expired for several years. An Expression of Interest has therefore been instigated to accomplish two objectives: 1) to provide the community with a formalised and substantive medical service, and 2) to provide the community a more comprehensive medical service which would include reduced waiting times, increased hours of service, and limited closures during holiday periods.

After advising both doctors of Council's intent and inviting them to participate in the process, Dr Smit decided not to participate in the Expression of Interest (which closes on 29 March 2019) and provided Council a Notice to Vacate the building by 29 March 2019.

Dr Conradie is an employee of the Shire and we are working with Dr Conradie to establish an interim medical service provision until the process is concluded and a new Medical Service Provider commences. It is expected that Dr Conradie will continue working with the Gingin Medical Practice into the future.

What is happening with my medical records?

Council is discussing this matter with Dr Smit for a smooth handover for both parties so that patients are not inconvenienced. The ideal outcome will be that the records stay with Dr Conradie and the Gingin Medical Practice, and if patients wish to see Dr Smit at an alternative practice in the future those records will either transfer with Dr Smit or be transferred upon request.

What is Council doing as of 29 March to provide a medical service?

Council is currently investigating several options for providing continued medical services from the Gingin Medical Centre. These negotiations are progressing and we hope to advise the community of a positive outcome in the very near future.

How can Council let two great doctors leave?

We wish to reiterate that two doctors are not leaving, only Dr Smit. In addition, the EOI process called by Council was never questioning the medical expertise that either Dr Smit or Dr Conradie has provided. In fact Council is, and always has been, very appreciative of the excellent service provided by both doctors.

However, Dr Smit has chosen to cease her medical practice business in Gingin and is commencing a new stage of her medical career at another location. Council wishes Dr Smit all the best in her endeavours and Council looks forward to continuing to work with Dr Conradie at the Gingin Medical Centre.

As more information becomes available it will be distributed on the Gingin notice boards, the Shire's Facebook page and website, and within local newspapers where possible.

AARON COOK
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