

**To the residents of McKinlay Shire.**

**NWHHS monthly update. Julia Creek MPHS**

*Just advising as promised last meeting, there is as yet no change to the staffing levels at the Julia Creek MPHS. This means the facility remains a Level 1 facility for the time being. Essentially this still means the facility is unable to provide overnight inpatient care, or overnight care for Aged Care Residents, as a Level 2 facility does. Everything else remains the same with the facility open between 8am and 6pm, while still providing 24/7 Accident and Emergency, as well as Pathology services. Medical support is being provided by agreement with the Ramsay Street Practice in Cloncurry.*

*We are watching closely, travel restrictions being relaxed between states within Australia, and by the Queensland government for travellers from New Zealand into Queensland. Queensland is expecting the existing 14 day isolation restrictions for travellers from Queensland returning to New Zealand to be lifted by the New Zealand government sometime in January.*

*While this may provide some relief to medical and nursing staffing shortages across Queensland, we expect a majority of staff who are usually available will elect to spend the Christmas and New Year holiday period with family, but we continue to monitor the situation with our recruitment agencies daily, to watch for any change. We are also monitoring the latest developments with the most recent COVID transmission outbreak around northern Sydney, and how that may impact staffing flows and interstate travel with Queensland.*

*We again acknowledge the patience of the community as we work through this and we also express our appreciation of the continuing great work done by the Director of Nursing, Doctors and all Staff at the Julia Creek MPHS. We also acknowledge the ongoing support of Ramsay Street Practice (Cloncurry), QAS, the RFDS, and the Mount Isa Emergency Department as we manage through this period.*

*Paul Woodhouse  
Board Chair, North West Hospital and Health Service*