

**Julia Creek MPHS
(Monthly Update No 2. January 28, 2021)**

Following on from the first community update in December of last year, we remain unable to return our MPHS facility in Julia Creek to a Level 2 capacity due to a continuation of staff shortages. This will be disappointing but not unexpected news for the community, as it certainly is for us.

The work through the current situation continues on a daily basis, both regionally and much broader afield, and we will keep the McKinlay Shire Council abreast of any developments. I'm always available to them at any time as is our Chief Executive, Dr Murphy. We will also keep going as promised, with this community update, and will obviously upgrade our facility at any time in between if we are able to.

In the meantime, I hear there are some assumptions so it's again worth restating our position as the facts I clarified last year, that is;

- (1) there is no intention to close our facility in Julia Creek, the MPHS. It hasn't even been discussed.
- (2) the current situation is due to circumstances beyond our control but has a daily focus by the NWHHS.
- (3) the current reduction is not being used as a subterfuge to permanently downgrade service delivery at the Julia Creek MPHS long term. We intend to resume normal services as soon as we are able to.

The MPHS retains its capacity with Accident and Emergency, Pathology and has a 24/7 Nurse on call capability. We continue to work with the Ramsay Street GP Practice. RFDS retrievals to either Mount Isa or Townsville continue as required as they have since the RFDS first started up. QAS operations continue as normal and the Mount Isa Emergency Department and TEMSU remain on call if or as required. Affected services remain; the in house night shift, and our ability to cater for residents and overnight stays.

Despite the reduction of services, the quality of services remains our focus and we have every faith in our DON and all of our Staff. Please make use of the facility as much as possible.

Paul Woodhouse. Board Chair, NWHHS.