

**Julia Creek MPHS
(Monthly Update No 3. February 26, 2021)**

I can report no change to the Julia Creek MPHS over the last month. The HHS continues to watch cross border changes to restrictions and isolation requirements. We are also interested to see what effect the earlier than expected roll out of the COVID-19 vaccines will have, especially how they might affect the re entry of non permanent staff into the workforce.

With more community transmission in New Zealand, yesterday's removal of that country as a 'safe travel country' is expected to affect numbers of available locum nursing staff from there for the moment. We're continuing to monitor this as we work through a number of vacancies across the HHS region, involving more than 8 Locum Agencies, as well as normal internal recruitment.

Specific to doctors, while we continue to work with the Ramsay Street GP practice. Please remember that on the days there is no doctor at the Medical Centre, you can still go to the hospital and be seen by the nursing staff and referred on to see a doctor if necessary. This is a 24/7 service together with Cloncurry and Mount Isa.

We met with the Shire Council in Julia Creek last week together with Dr Murphy the A/Chief Executive and others, to keep council updated. Council let us know their ongoing concerns and frustrations, and those of the community. The Board was kept updated on the situation this week at its regular meeting but is well aware of the complex and broader problems driving this.

Paul Woodhouse.
Board Chair