

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ACCESS TO  
HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES IN RURAL,  
REGIONAL AND REMOTE NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

2020 Health Care at Tullamore MPS Medical Practice TULLAMORE NSW 2874

The recent past – a local resident Doctor – working 5, then later 4 days per week – and always busy...

The present – various locum Doctors taking turns fortnightly – 2 days per week - insufficient

The Locum appreciation factor – great, we definitely appreciate an alternative is provided locally.

Significant Health Care Factors

1. Doctors at Tullamore Medical Centre

Monday and Thursday only

Appointments have to be anticipated, made far in advance, are not always available; but valued.

Example:

I needed a medical for my recently due Driver Licence.

I live west of Tullamore

*An appointment was NOT available at:*

- Tullamore because already booked out 3 weeks before medical was due.
- Forbes because they have 6 not 12 doctors due to Covid, and take no-one new.
- Parkes Clarinda St Practice: have declared “No new customers” to cater for those they have.
- GP’s at Parkes – No, but could hear that I was desperate. So we had to get the Tullamore Practice Staff to email essential information to inform the doctor I had not previously met. Luckily that Staff lady was at work – the Doctor couldn’t attend Tullamore for reason unknown. The form was completed on the day due and I walked it 200m to the Parkes RMS.

2. Tullamore Medical Centre Practice Hours: 9:00 to ? Last appointment is at 4:15

People working away from Tullamore find it hard to get back for appointments, and almost as hard to get an appointment elsewhere after working away, then drive 100+km safely back to Tullamore. School staff and students struggle with appointments out of school hours. But A&E assists a lot also:

Example 1:

- My husband’s pulse on Friday 26.06.20 while in Dubbo was too slow. One off? Monitored... He had swallowed a ½ tablet daily for some years for mild blood pressure.
- Saturday morning at our Tullamore farm; pulse still too slow. No doctor at Tullamore
- Saturday afternoon I took him, plus luggage, and mine, to A&E at the Tullamore MPS
- Saturday evening he went by road Ambulance to Orange
- Sunday morning I drove to Orange – very early.
- Sunday evening Air Ambulance to Sydney.
- Tuesday morning 30.06.2020 Pace Maker inserted at Strathfield Private Hospital by RPA Dr B.
- Thursday morning a return flight to Orange. (My brother drove me back)
- Friday – 03 July home to Tullamore
- Monday –Tullamore appointment. Locum Dr totally amazed my husband had had heart surgery.

Example 2:

- I care for my now “no driver licence” husband. Meanwhile working full time 117km away.
- Getting back from work at Forbes, out to our farm to collect him, back into Tullamore for an appointment; is an almost weekly hazard, especially now through harvest traffic.
- I manage, thanks to the caring Medical Practice staff and immensely considerate Doctors.
- Our 4:15 appointment is often at 6:00 because bookings are so limited, but never rushed.
- I suspect many unpaid hours are being worked by clerical staff.

Example 3:

- I need a small skin cancer removed from the top of an ear.
- An appointment was available at Tottenham the next day but inaccessible for me
- Friends say appointments are more obtainable at Tottenham because allocated 3 days/week
- Should Tottenham and Tullamore really share 3days/2days equally alternately fortnightly?
- Our retired doctor will be available this week (as the locum) at 4:00
- I will leave FHS at 3:00 and drive the 103 kms carefully

3. Tullamore Multipurpose (Health Care) Service

This largely community funded and operated ‘Ex-Aged Care Home vintage 1978’ became refurbished and updated to include acute and A&E services and a G.P. Suite, converting the previous building into an MPS which was completed and declared ‘open’ in 2006, providing Acute and Aged Care; and all forms of Health Care including ‘Rural and Remote’ for our Tullamore population.

The Parkes Shire Council has recently wonderfully improved the G.P. Suite, plus Day Care section.

The number of dementia patients currently being admitted and catered for in our MPS (which is not a Dementia specific unit) is a huge concern, mentioned and worried about by an increasing number of community members; especially those for whom care is imminent. Please recognise this problem.

Locals should not be seeking aged care elsewhere due to the Tullamore MPS dementia patient factor increase, and the resultant uneasiness and predicted unhappiness of those also wanting to be there.

I am offered respite care for my husband who also has prostate cancer and “Parkinson’s” which is to be absolutely clarified 01.12.2020 by a new neurologist. I am totally reluctant for him to have to cope with dementia patients. If he becomes one or is admitted because of “Parkinson’s” I do not wish him to impact on the lives of others not similarly troubled; who should enjoy their aged care.

A separate Dementia wing is needed for those needing Dementia care, the Aged and the Staff of our Health facility. One RN and EN per shift: 12 High aged care beds, 2 Low aged, 4 acute, 2 A&E. NO. ☹

I am reluctant to have my name published due to the obvious existence of untrustworthy people who do not need to know our current movements.

I highly appreciate that you ask about our Tullamore MPS Facility and Tullamore Doctor situation.

It is wonderful that Orange CSU in 2021 and Dubbo in 2022 will be offering training in medicine and hope that will allow our next generation to live and conduct agricultural business here in the future.