



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

13th November 2007

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| DCCS7 | PUBLIC DENTAL CLINIC DENTISTRY SERVICES |
| FILE: 46 | KEO (NRN) {Folio No. *} |

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the response from North Coast Area Health Service (NCAHS) to Council's letter concerning Public Dental Clinic Dentistry Services in the Macleay Valley

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BACKGROUND

Following concerns raised by the community, Council at the ordinary meeting held on the 14th August 2007 resolved:

1. *That Council makes representations to the North Coast Area Health Service expressing its concern over the lack of full time local Public Dental Clinic Dentistry services for the Macleay Valley.*
2. *That Council request the Federal Coalition Government to reinstate the dental funding initiative which they terminated in 1996. This funding was implemented to reduce public dental times."*

Subsequent to this resolution Council made representations to the Chief Executive Officer of North Coast Health, Mr Chris Crawford and to Mr Luke Hartsuyker, MP Federal Member for Cowper.

Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP has confirmed that he has made representations to the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Mr Tony Abbott on Council's behalf for consideration.

Mr Chris Crawford has advised that the North Coast Area Health Service (NCAHS) has investigated the matter and provides the following information.

"At the beginning of August 2007 the NCAHS successfully recruited to the vacant Senior Dental Officer position in the Hastings Macleay.

With this senior position in place the NCAHS will now be able to take advantage of the recruitment initiatives being developed by the Centre of Oral Health Strategy. Hastings Macleay will now be in a position to participate in Sydney University Dental Students placements and the

State Overseas Trained Dentist Program. Hastings Macleay are nominated to participate in the next rotation.

The NCAHS is actively recruiting to the vacant positions; all positions are logged with the recruitment agencies, this is a high priority area for the Oral Health Service.

It is anticipated Oral Health enhancement funds will include a sum to participate in the State Graduate recruitment project; it is the NCAHS intention to target this in the Hastings Macleay details of enhancements are received.

The NCAHS would support additional Federal funds to address demand for Oral Health Services”.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

Access to public dental services is an important service to the Community. With the recruitment of a senior dental officer and the participation in recruitment programs by NCAHS, improvement in the delivery of dental services to the Hastings Macleay will be achieved in the future.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

- ***Director's Review***

Information is noted.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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G B Snape

DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES