



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

**DCCS22 HEALTH SERVICES  
FILE: 419 (389733),46 (389660) KEO {Folio No. \*}**

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on responses received from the North Coast Area Health Service in relation to Kempsey District Hospital and the NSW Minister for Education and Training concerning mental health issues within schools.

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

Council on numerous occasions has made representations to the North Coast Area Health Service and NSW Government Ministers concerning health services in the Kempsey Shire. These representations have included; renal dialysis, emergency department and mental health issues.

Correspondence provided from the NCAHS, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009, advises that funding has been secured to undertake renovations of the renal unit to provide additional dialysis beds, however this renovation may result in the closure of the renal unit for a period of 4 weeks.

Further representation concerning mental health concerns was made to the NSW Education Minister, Verity Firth MP.

Recent correspondence received is provided in [\(Appendix Q – Page J55\)](#).

Community concerns regarding health services in the Macleay Valley have been raised through Council on a regular basis. The Council lead Mental Health Intervention held in June 2008 in four local high schools with 380 students provided firm evidence that mental health and depression were of significant concern to the youth of the Shire. Mental Health services in the Shire are available for acute cases, intervention, support and guidance is not readily available.

### **RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***Nil***

- *Social*

*Access to health services is fundamental to our community. Mental health is increasingly becoming a major concern throughout the population.*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*Nil*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Nil*

- *Director's Review*

*Community concerns are continually being raised with Council and other service providers as to the services available within the Kempsey District Hospital.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council request a meeting with the CEO of NCAHS to discuss issues associated with Renal Services, including what provisions will be made if a shut down of the Renal Unit occurs as a result of renovations.
2. That Council forward to the NSW Education Minister, Health Minister and Minister for Local Government and Minister Assisting the Health Minister (Mental Health) the results of the June 2008 Mental Health Intervention within the local high schools highlighting the inadequacy of the services offered with the Shire and education system.

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**K E OLIVER**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**