



MAYOR'S REPORT

14th December 2004

M4	HEALTH SERVICES
	FILE: H2-10 CLR JACH

SUMMARY

Reporting on meetings to develop a partnership to protect and improve the level of health services within Kempsey Shire.



On Thursday 11th November 2004 a meeting was arranged by Mayor Councillor Janet Hayes with Mr Chris Crawford CEO and Ms Kim Browne, North Coast Area Health Service. Also in attendance were Councillors John Bowell, Betty Green and Bob McWilliam.

Mr Crawford advised

- There was support for the appointment of a Senior Surgical Registrar and Orthopaedic Registrar to service both Kempsey District and Port Macquarie Base Hospitals
- Discussion will be arranged to encourage Surgeons / Specialists to service operation lists at Kempsey District Hospital and to provide ample time for clinical services whilst in Kempsey.
- The appointment of another Physician to assist with services and intensive care and coronary care (to reduce costs with Locums) was well underway
- Negotiations are underway to provide incentives to retain career medical officers
- An additional Obstetrician GP had been appointed
- A networking co-ordinator is to be appointed whose responsibility would include the provision for the upskilling of Kempsey Shire GPs by attending Port Macquarie Base Hospital together with the exchange of views when specialists GP's visit Kempsey District Hospital
- An after hours clinic is proposed at Tweed Heads which will be a benchmark for additional clinics such as at Kempsey
- The provision of funding for CAT scan and ultrasound equipment at Kempsey District Hospital will be considered.
- The development of a new Hospital at Kempsey was certainly being considered and a public – private partnership in the planning and construction is a possibility
- The inclusion of Kempsey within the Rural Doctors Network would be investigated.

- The development of the land opposite the Hospital will be investigated bearing in mind the provision of a multi purpose building to include consulting rooms and accommodation.

On Thursday 25th November 2004 a further meeting was held at Council:-

PRESENT:

Professor Jenny Graham (Executive Dean of Health & Applied Sciences, Southern Cross University) Facilitator of the Meeting.
Councillors Bowell, Green, Hunt and McWilliam (Kempsey Shire Council)

Mr Laurie Clay – (Durri Medical Clinic)

Dr Carol Booth

Dr Col Farquarson

Dr Peter Ackerley

Dr Leo Smith

Mr Brian Calford – (Rotary Club of Kempsey)

APOLIGIES:

Rotary Club of West Kempsey

Dr Harry Johnson

Ms Maureen McGovern (Mid North Coast Area Health Service) advised in writing:

“The combined Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers Area Health Services have been in consultation to develop a new clinical services plan that will determine the direction for the new North Coast Area Health Service. The draft plan is due to be released early in the New Year. Once the final plan has been released I would be in a better position to answer the matters for discussion”.

Mr Chris Crawford (Chief Executive Officer – North Coast Area Health Service)

Professor Graham requested those present to list their priorities for health, listed below:-

- New Hospital with a Private Wing
- Adequate Retention of Surgeons
- Specialist availability
- Hospital to Home
- Lack of Finances
- Mental Health Community follow up
- Health Education beginning at pre-School
- Promote good health – include in the school curriculum (Local – National “Holistic”)
- Prevention of Habits – eg smoking, early pregnancy, alcohol
- More information to public re: availability and non-availability
- More use of bulk billing
- Pensioner Work Issues
- Dental Health
- Networking Acute services

- Succession Planning
- Comprehensive on-ground services
- Chronic Disease Management
- Multiplicity of inputs and locations and Silos
- Personal Responsibilities – Nutrition / Exercise
- Employment
- Resources – all women
- Transport – IPTAS
- Impact of Gaol
- Lack of Therapies
- Acute infrastructure has to be implemented to retain G.P.'s to our area
- Multi purpose building opposite Hospital (consulting rooms, accommodation, etc).

It was suggested by Cr. Green that Councils Community Services Committee is the appropriate area for development of a “Health Vision / Strategy” for the Kempsey Shire, with a sub-committee to be formed with representation from Durri Aboriginal Medical Service, the GP’s and Kempsey District Hospital with input from the stakeholders.

It is imperative that Council is the driver in the development of this Health Services Plan.

Professor Graham stated that she would be happy to associate with such a sub-committee and advised Southern Cross University has resources to assist.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Mr Chris Crawford and Ms Kim Browne North Coast Area health Service.**
- 2. That Professor Graham be thanked for her support and invited to be an ex-officio member of the proposed sub-committee.**
- 3. That Council’s Community Services Committee be requested to establish a sub-committee to develop a “Health Vision / Strategy” for Kempsey Shire under the auspice of Council’s Social Plan.**
- 4. That Durri Aboriginal Medical Service, General Practitioners and Kempsey District Hospital be invited to provide representation on the sub-committee.**
- 5. That a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr Chris Crawford CEO North Coast Area Health Service, Professor Jenny Graham the relevant stakeholders and Mr Bob Walsh CEO Port Macquarie Base Hospital.**
- 6. That a meeting be arranged with Cr. Rob Drew Mayor of Hastings Council to suggest the establishment of a similar**

committee which will allow the matter of networking of health services within the two areas to be progressed.

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J A C Hayes
MAYOR