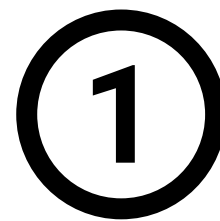


CARDWELL FAMILY PRACTICE WORKING GROUP UPDATE



Issue 1

October 2023

Working together for GP services in Cardwell

The **Cardwell Family Practice Working Group** has been established to ensure GP services are maintained in Cardwell and to determine a sustainable model for the future. The operational working group consists of representatives from local key organisations, including Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS), Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN), Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC), the local practice, and other key local health stakeholders.

Cardwell Health Stakeholder Forum

The working group hosted a **Health Stakeholder Forum in Cardwell on 31 August** where the group briefed key stakeholders, answered questions regarding GP services in Cardwell, and provided proposed future solutions.

The group would like to thank Cassowary Coast Mayor Cr Mark Nolan, Nick Dametto MP, and Rural Health Management Services who participated on the day. A special shout out to Carmen and Julie at Cardwell Family Practice for going above and beyond and working with the group on short- and long-term solutions.



Left-right: Terry Mehan (NQPHN Chair), THHS CEO Kieran Keyes, NQPHN CEO Robin Whyte, and THHS Chair Tony Mooney at the Cardwell GP Health Stakeholder Forum in August 2023.



COLLABORATION: Stakeholders at the Health Stakeholder Forum in Cardwell

Cardwell Family Practice



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Issue 1

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Locum GPs secured until the end of 2023

Townsville Hospital and Health Service has successfully secured locum GPs to provide care to Cardwell residents from the Cardwell Family practice until the end of this year.

We'll be here until the working group has ensured the community can access a GP locally. Our hope is that we can find a doctor who is as passionate about living and working in Cardwell as you are.

We want to find this community someone who is invested in their health and proud to call Cardwell home. If we can do this, we can hand the operation of the practice over knowing your health care is in good hands.

But until this time, our health service is here for you because we will always make the health of north Queenslanders our number one priority.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service

Working together for a longer-term solution

NQPHN Chief Executive Officer Robin Whyte said the organisation will be working with the Cardwell community to deliver a longer-term solution to GP services in the town.

"We understand the impact the initial decision to close the practice has had on the community," she said.

"We are delighted a short-term fix has been put in place, and we will now be convening a broader working group to find longer-term sustainable solutions to primary care provision in Cardwell."

Ms Whyte said this group would work to achieve the following objectives:

1. Identify the underlying causes of current GP issues in Cardwell
2. Develop and propose effective solutions to improve healthcare access for the local community
3. Foster collaboration between stakeholders to support a sustainable longer-term primary care alliance for the community of Cardwell
4. Develop a framework to support emerging needs of similar markets in the NQPHN region.

Ms Whyte said NQPHN would be working with key stakeholders, including local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and aged care organisations, to co-design a future proposed solution.