

Shire of Lake Grace

PO Box 19 Lake Grace WA 6353 | Phone 9890 2500 | Fax 9890 2599 | Email shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au



MEDIA RELEASE

22 November 2016

Doctor and Medical Centre Practice Management

On Friday 18 November Council met with First Health, Doctor Taulke-Johnson and Pauline Ong to ascertain a clear understanding of all issues in relation to the Doctor and the Management of the Medical Practice. As a result Council is now aware of some communication and contractual issues between the Council, First Health and the resident Doctors, which have been resolved going forward.

Council currently has an agreement with First Health to provide a General Practice Business Support Service. This arrangement was put in place a month prior to the departure of Dr Jacobs on the 1 November 2015. A part of this contract was to engage First Health to “run” the practice until a permanent Doctor was placed. This was a necessity as the Shire doesn’t have the expertise of practice management.

With our current arrangements First Health they are managing the Medical Practice on behalf of the Shire until a replacement Doctor can be sourced. Once a replacement Doctor is found they have the option to take over the “running” of the practice, they would then be responsible for the employment of staff and the day to day management of the practice.

After that time First Health may still be contracted to provide General Practice Business Support Services under the following service streams:

- Practice Management
- Recruitment
- HR Management
- Accounting and Bookkeeping
- IT Support and Maintenance
- Clinical Leadership
- Service Coordination
- Corporate Services for the Shire

All these streams are essential to the successful running of any medical practice. As not all Doctors have run their own practice, this type of business support would be critical to ensure the success of the practice. The Shire is committed to ensure any Doctor has all the resources they require to run a successful practice.

The Shire of Corrigin has a very successful relationship with First Health supporting their Doctor. Both the Shire and the Doctor are more than happy with the services being provided and hope to continue the relationship with First Health.

Our commitment is to engage a replacement Doctor for our community as soon as practicable. At this time First Health has the knowledge and experience needed to “run” the practice and assist with our recruitment needs.

For the period 28 November to 8 December 2016 Dr Mike Griffies has agreed to locum at the practice. Dr Griffies is available for both Practice and Emergency Department work.

ENDS

FOR MEDIA COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

Denise Gobbart | Chief Executive Officer | Shire of Lake Grace

(p) (08) 9890 2500 | (e) shire@lakegrace.wa.gov.au