

# NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

## MEDICAL / HEALTH CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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MEETING HELD MONDAY 11 MARCH 2013 AT THE LESSER HALL COMMENCING  
AT 7.30PM

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### 1. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Approximately 200 people were in attendance, including Councillors, Committee members and members of the public.

#### **Apologies**

Mrs J Webb  
Mrs J Warland  
Mrs P Crook  
Mrs P McGregor  
Mr R Sexton  
Mrs R Marinoni  
Mrs G Cussons  
Mr T Cussons  
Ms S Weaver

### 2. INTRODUCTION

The Committee Chairperson, Mr Neil Young, declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed all present. He stated the meeting was for the Medical Centre subject only. He explained that the meeting was an information session and not a meeting for decision making.

He outlined the background to the formation of the committee and explained the Terms of Reference on Page 4 of the Flyer distributed at the meeting, this is the document the Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee have used to carry out their research.

Neil Young then gave an overview of the recommendation/decisions of the Shire of Kojonup Council on Page 1 of the Flyer and how the committee got to the decisions they have.

The Chairperson, Neil Young mentioned the building sites that have been explored. The Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee have consulted widely, considered options and needs. No current building found was deemed suitable, and the final decision of the Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee after much research, was that the best location would



be adjacent to the hospital. Also the possible opportunities for funding to co-locate with the hospital via the car park, and still retain independence.

The community require a modern facility, and planned with opportunity for expansion if required in the future. Provide the opportunity for a good business for two GP's.

### 3. GENERAL BUSINESS

Comments were then received by the Chairperson and responses were given:

Comment: It is all about a building not service.

Response: Not true. We (Kojonup) needs a modern facility to attract Doctors looking in the future the Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee are looking to the long-term, not a short term fix.

Comment: Co-location with Day-care.

Response: Before Chairman's involvement. This was only a suggestion when considering the Medical Centre to be located at the old school site on the Corner of Spring Street and Pensioner Road approximately 2 years ago.

Comment/Question: Committees involvement with Dr.King?

Response: He has been kept informed only.

Comment: Shire cannot afford new Medical Centre.

Response: It was never expected to do so without external funding. Hoping there will be no or minimal cost to ratepayers.

Comment: You guys too slow.

Response: We have achieved a great deal since the first meeting in August 2012.

Comment: Shire decision making illegal.

Response: Not so, but unconventional.

Comment: Why prevent us (Kojonup) from having a second Doctor?

Response: Not so. There could be a loss of an already stable service. One can obtain an appointment relatively quickly compared with Katanning. Locum doctors could result in loss of stability of service. Also it was told by one present at the meeting, that at Albany, there was often a 1 to 2 weeks wait for an appointment. We do already have coverage on weekends at Katanning Hospital, and maybe then on to Albany if required.



## CHAIRMAN'S GENERAL COMMENTS

- (1) In regards to the raising of funds, the Council's decision on the house in Katanning Road has made it more difficult. There can be perceived a lack of purpose. Also it diminishes the argument that we have an old surgery not fit for purpose. I,e,. Expenditure on a temporary facility would lose bargaining power. These were comments made by the Chief Executive Officer and the President of the Great Southern Development Commission. The Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee is against expenditure on 2 facilities-one temporary and one inadequate.
- (2) Establish sustainable business structure by obtaining a tenant before building commences. This was not adopted by the Shire Council.
- (3) Who guarantees St Luke's Family Practice service will be available on weekends? This has not been negotiated. There is no guarantee of a 24hour/7days per week service.
- (4) Committees progress given to Council in December 2012, well received by Council.
- (5) Business Management suggestions given to Council in recommendation.
- (6) Katanning Supertown - \$35 million for health services; supposed to support surrounding Shires – Regional assistance. Funding possibilities.

## QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Time line for completion? Cannot give definite estimate, but not before two years.

- Neil Jackson: Perceived lack of co-operation/animosity between Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee and Shire Council.
- Don Hair: Stated his opposition to use of house on Katanning Road. Upgrade facilities at hospital; reference to ambulance service.
- Geoff Fisher: Asked for Dr. King's comments on the Katanning Road House being turned into a Medical Centre.
- Dr. King: Replied that he was concerned about a new practice in Katanning Road, but not opposed to a choice of Doctors. He would be prepared to take on another Doctor into his practice. Dr King confirmed his position of agreement and that there was a place for a second doctor in Kojonup. Dr King stated that he was prepared to take on another doctor into his practice. Katanning originally had 4 separate practices-now one big one. He explained



the plans for "medical hubs" of the Great Southern. Six of these through Royalties for Regions being able to offer 24hr/7day service. Dr. King is paid \$65,000 for same hospital cover at Kojonup. Katanning fee is \$1million. Can Kojonup get a greater portion of the funding? The answer is no. Doubts St Luke's Family Practice will offer 24hr/7day cover. The Southern Inland Health Initiative is offering large amounts of money to doctors who cover Katanning Hospital on the weekends. These payments are not coming to doctors covering Kojonup Hospital. Doctors paid \$2,000 for a 12 hour shift in Katanning and these hubs. Kojonup does have coverage through Katanning and Albany. Kojonup does not have the waiting lists for appointments like other Shires. Appointments can usually be obtained either that day, or the next day. Katanning often have a two week waiting list. Dr King intends to stay and offer support. Council is distracting from work of the Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee. He stated that there was vast budget constraints at Kojonup Hospital. Now there is not even an X-Ray machine there, so patients have to go to Katanning now for X-rays. Dr King thanked the Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee and gave his full support to the committee, and their endeavours for a modern Medical Centre.

- Cr Jill Mathwin: Stated that Dr Du Preez could set up practice in a building in Kojonup at any time, a building not controlled by the Shire.
- Keith Ashton: We should go ahead and build the Medical Centre. Sad to direct funds away from Medical Centre for a temporary solution.
- Paula Reid: We need another Doctor. Building of no relevance. Personal circumstances.
- David Lee: High priority to try to obtain \$1million from \$37million allocated to Katanning Supertown allocation from Health Department. He also discussed the opportunity for sources of funding with the Health Department, Great Southern Development Commission, Royalties for Regions and Lotterywest. Positive for these sources of funding.
- Debbie Robertson - Keillor: Katanning Road House Lease for 8yrs?
- Cr Greg Marsh: Responded that he put forward 3/3/3yrs lease terminated when Medical Centre was built.



- Will Carrington-Jones: Suggested \$93,000 not too great to spend and should not be a deterrent. He suggested he could not understand how the Katanning Road House for St Luke's Family Practice could affect further funding.
- Cr Greg Marsh: Discussed concerns regarding cost issues with farming families, touched on Shire rates and the costs of servicing even a small loan to build the medical centre. Operating Costs of centre still need to be determined.
- Cr Greg Marsh: Thought there was a query regarding the casting vote made at the February Ordinary Council Meeting. This was never an issue, as the President would be in breach of the Local Government Act if she did not cast the second vote.
- Cr Jill Mathwin: Clarified the query regarding the casting vote itself. The Shire President may vote in the affirmative or negative as she wishes. It is more accepted to vote against the motion to keep the status quo.
- Bruce Warland: Are we able to obtain allied support professionals. Agreement, but no specific response. There is an incentive payment scheme to doctors available in regard to allied service.
- Ernie Graham: Spoke to Hon Terry Waldron MLA about the possibility of using the 2011/2012 Royalties for Regions funding together with the 2012/2013 Royalties for Regions funding. Newdegate Medical Centre used \$760,000 of Royalties for Regions Funds. Ernie as a member of the Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee was very positive regarding the way the Committee was working and achievements so far.
- Jenny Matthews: This has been an information session only, and not a meeting to discuss matters of debate normally done by Council. Council and members of the Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee need to work together and this can be achieved by better communication.



## MOTION

Moved Mrs D Robertson-Keillor, seconded Mr L House that this meeting endorse the work of the committee to date and encourage them to continue.

CARRIED

## THE NEXT STEP

The Chairman then outlined where to from here:

- Timing/funding to delivery of the project;
- Define business structure;
- Document to define scope, give to the Council and finalise committee;
- A Small Building committee may be established to implement/build.

## MOTION

Moved Mrs D Robertson-Keillor that this meeting request that the Council do not commit funding to a temporary medical practice at the Katanning Road Premises.

Many people present spoke against this motion as it is not a matter for the community to decide, it is the Council's decision.

## MOTION WITHDRAWN

*This motion was withdrawn as it was not appropriate, as this is a decision of Council.*

Before the close of the meeting, the Chairperson asked for a show of hands for those for and against the Council spending money on a temporary Medical Centre in Katanning Road.

More hands were raised against spending money on 34 Katanning Road than for it, although a substantial amount of people had left the hall as they did not wish to participate.

The Chair thanked the Community members for attending the meeting, as well as for their support to the Medical/Health Centre Advisory Committee in their endeavours to build a modern facility for medical services in Kojonup.

## **4. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss the Chairperson thanked the Committee Members and Community Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

