

Question on Notice

No. 364

Asked on 3 April 2025

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the announcement that Cloncurry's last private GP will be closing their doors—

Will the Minister provide a guarantee that the Cloncurry community will have adequate access to the required number of GPs and allied services?

ANSWER

I am advised that Queensland Country Practice were engaged to analyse the health needs of the community, benchmark workforce volume and make recommendations regarding the model of engagement, to best deliver care and contend with comparable health services.

This analysis recommended a Single Employer Model in a public private partnership. The North West Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Executive have determined that this is the preferred model. North West HHS is actively exploring feasibility and budget implications of implementing such a model.

I am advised that in the interim, additional General Practitioners and Rural Generalists have been employed as Remote Relievers, along with some returning locums, to ensure consistency in backfill cover for safe continuous care.

North West HHS are supporting negotiations with a party interested in taking on the private general practice, with medical staffing facilitated by the North West HHS as per the recommended arrangement.

North West HHS continue to use a virtual consulting arrangement for non-emergency after hours presentations and fatigue management, across all remote facilities.