



# MEDIA RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 August 2022

***The Shire of Toodyay and Wheatbelt Health Network wish to advise that Wheatbelt Health Network will cease operating a medical general practice at the Alma Beard Medical Centre Toodyay no later than 30 November 2022.***

Wheatbelt Health Network (WHN) has provided general practitioners for the community of Toodyay since 2012. Operating from the Alma Beard Medical Centre in Stirling Terrace Toodyay, services have recently included physiotherapy and pathology services in addition to GPs.

CEO of Wheatbelt Health Network, Catherine Milliner has said, “We’ve been delivering the only General Practice service in Toodyay for ten years and appreciate the impact of this decision on the community. We will be working hard to minimise the inconvenience to our patients and help to provide seamless transition to alternative GPs.”

In acknowledging the support of the Shire, which has provided a rental subsidy over the last ten years, Ms Milliner also noted that “although managing a general practice in the regions is always challenging, this has become even harder as a result of reducing incentives for doctors to work in regional areas, and the increased cost of living and wages with no corresponding increase to the Medicare rebate.”

Cr Rosemary Madacsi, Shire President said the Shire would be seeking ways to ensure that residents of Toodyay have access to adequate medical services.

“Council will consider its options regarding the Medical Centre and the provision of GPs for our community. We’ll also be working in partnership with Wheatbelt Health Network to advocate for better access to medical services for those living outside the Perth metropolitan area. This is an on-going problem and needs to be seriously addressed,” she said.

Those patients affected by this decision are advised to contact Wheatbelt Health Network on 9621 4444.

ENDS

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