



## MEDIA RELEASE

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held yesterday, 22 March 2023, Council endorsed a contract for the provision of GP and allied health services at the Alma Beard Medical Centre in Toodyay. Today, Dr Akeem Lawal, the Shire President and the CEO executed the agreement in a historic signing at the Shire Administration Office.

Shire President, Cr Rosemary Madacsi welcomed Dr Lawal as Toodyay's newest business owner.

"The Shire acknowledged community concerns about the closure in November last year, of the medical services provided by Wheatbelt Health Network. I'm so pleased that we have been able to attract a medical professional of Dr Lawal's calibre after a comprehensive tender process followed by detailed contract negotiations."

Dr Lawal is no stranger to Toodyay, having previously worked as a GP for the Wheatbelt Health Network and plans to provide a range of services for residents.

"I am keen to reconnect with my existing patients and of course, welcome new ones. I look forward to providing local, high quality health services for the people of Toodyay," said Dr Lawal.

The Shire and Dr Lawal will be working together to facilitate the opening of the service as soon as possible. The practice is anticipated to open in approximately nine weeks once the set-up of the centre and provision of the resources required to ensure a successful practice have been completed.

Cr Madacsi commented, "I'm delighted that there has been a successful outcome for Toodyay. We will continue to advocate strongly though with both state and federal governments regarding the increasing burden place on local governments for the provision of GP services".

**ENDS**

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