

# Northern District Community Health Service



## Media Release:

31 October 2016

### For immediate release.

#### **New owners for Kerang's Fitzroy Street Medical Clinic.**

Kerang's Fitzroy Street Medical Clinic has transitioned to new owners, however for patients and the Kerang and district community this won't change the health care that they have been able to rely on.

Dr's Lindsay and Dianne Sherriff along with Dr. Graeme Wood officially handed the reins of the Fitzroy Street Medical Clinic (FSMC) over to the Northern District Community Health Service (NDCHS) on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 after more than 20 years of practice at the Clinic.

Lindsay and Dianne are presently voluntarily serving on a Mercy Ship off the coast of Africa, while Graeme is pleased to step back and focus on his work at the Fitzroy St clinic and the hospital.

Dr. Lindsay Sherriff said that he was pleased to entrust the NDCHS with the future of the medical practice, as the values and commitment to the local community were very much aligned to each other.

"The opportunity to fully integrate Community Health with the Medical Clinic brings an even greater capacity for well coordinated whole person health care. Good health begins in the home and with family, and can be reinforced in the hospital, schools, sporting clubs, churches, businesses and other community groups in our town," said Dr Sherriff

"I think we are now, as co-joined primary health service providers, even better placed to support these institutions of our town and district as we all work together for a healthy and thriving community." Dr Sherriff concluded.

Mrs Merril Kelly, Chair of the NDCHS Board said the community health service was grateful for the confidence shown by Lindsay, Dianne and Graeme, and thanked them very much for their trust and support in making the transition of the medical practice a reality.

"The FSMC is respected for its service to the Kerang community. We believe that the patients attend the clinic in the belief that they will be looked after and receive excellent health care. This is the wonderful legacy left by Graeme, Lindsay and Dianne which NDCHS is committed to continuing", said Mrs Kelly.

CEO of NDCHS, Mr. Greg Little said that for the patients and the Kerang community, it will be business as usual.

"We are very pleased that the team of Doctors, Nurses and practice staff at FSMC are staying on at the clinic so that for the patients the change of ownership will cause no impediment to their health care," said Mr Little.

Mr Little said that a benefit to the community of NDCHS now having the formal relationship with the FSMC is that there is opportunities for an integrated service model for the patients, which is especially important for people with or at risk of chronic disease or illnesses.

“NDCHS are very keen to work on options with FSMC and our local hospitals for expanded services, better referral pathways, connected care plans and health assessments so that we can invest back into our community and provide health care equal to anywhere in rural Victoria,” Mr. Little said.

Fitzroy Street Medical Clinic is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 5.30pm, appointments can be made by dropping in or phoning 5452 1366. Northern District Community Health Service is located next door to the medical clinic and opens Monday to Friday from 8:30-5pm, phone 5451 0200 or email: [info@ndchs.org.au](mailto:info@ndchs.org.au).

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