

MEDIA RELEASE

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Redevelopment of the Tuggeranong Community Health Centre

Dr Peggy Brown said today, to enable the expansion of primary health services at Tuggeranong Health Centre in line with the ACT Government's vision of the redeveloped ACT healthcare system, they will seek to transfer the Aged Day Care of clients currently attending the Tuggeranong program to a non-government provider.

"This decision will allow the Tuggeranong Community Health Centre to be developed as one of four 'general' community health centres planned across the ACT.

"The new \$19 million expanded Tuggeranong Community Health Centre will continue to be located at the corner of Anketell & Pitman Streets, Greenway. Construction is expected to begin in the second half of the year," Director-General, Dr Brown said.

Tuggeranong's new expanded health centre will provide a range of health services, including counselling, screening, treatment, therapy, community support, education, and group programs.

"Relocation of this service will enhance the ability of our Community Health Centres to meet the general community health needs through the expansion of a range of community health nursing and allied health services. It will include health services like alcohol and drug counselling; dental services; child, youth and women's services, self management programs to manage chronic conditions; mental health services, pathology and GP services," Dr Brown said.

The refurbished centre at Tuggeranong will complement the services provided by the adjacent Child and Family Centre.

"The Health Directorate has carefully deliberated over our options and following public consultation regarding the Aged Day Care programs have decided that the best way forward is to transfer the care of clients currently attending the Tuggeranong program to a non-government provider," Dr Brown said.

The consultation report that the Health Directorate commissioned found that Non Government Organisations are appropriate to deliver Aged Day Care Programs.

"The proposal is for the Health Directorate to fund a non-government (NGO) provider to effectively deliver this service for the clients of the aged day care service.

“All existing clients of the Tuggeranong Aged Day Care Program will be offered relocation to the successful alternate provider from the wide range of dedicated community groups currently servicing this need in the ACT.

“The ACT Government is committed to the principle that all clients who currently receive Aged Day Care from the Health Directorate will continue to receive a high quality service that replicates as closely as possible the service they are currently receiving.

“The Health Directorate is committed to working closely with the clients, clients’ families and carers who will no doubt have concerns about ongoing activity and respite options to ensure that no client will be left without a service,” Dr Brown concluded.

Statement Ends/27 July 2011

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