



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Health
Minister for Families and Community Services
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

Mr Ryan Hemlsey and Ms Monique Brouwer
Molonglo Valley Community Forum
info@mvcommunityforum.org.au

Dear Mr Hemsley and Ms Brouwer

Thank you for your emails of 6 August and 16 October 2021 requesting an update on the Coombs Walk-In Centre. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I recognise that the news regarding the National Health Co-Operative (NHC) entering voluntary administration in June would have raised concerns in the Molonglo community about the next steps for the planned Walk-in Health Centre that was to be co-located with the NHC Coombs clinic. That is why I was clear in my public comments that the ACT Government remains absolutely committed to delivering the Walk-in Health Centre in Coombs, providing individuals and families with accessible, affordable healthcare closer to home.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to provide concrete advice on how and when this commitment could be delivered until the NHC Administrators had completed their work in relation to the Coombs practice and the Government had the opportunity to engage with the new practice owners. The ACT Health Directorate has remained in close contact with the Administrators throughout this process.

The Administrators were able to announce on 21 September that the Coombs practice would transition to Palm Healthcare. As you may be aware, Palm Healthcare currently operates Greenway Medical Centre, which is described as a family medical practice offering some bulk billing services.

I am pleased to advise that Palm Healthcare has indicated it would welcome co-location of the Walk-in Health Centre with its Molonglo Valley Medical Centre in Coombs. The ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services are currently finalising plans for leasing options and transition of services to the Walk-in Health Centre.

The Walk-in Health Centre is expected to open in early 2022, however the exact date depends on the lease being finalised. Once a lease arrangement is signed it may take up to 16 weeks before services can commence.

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I look forward to continuing engagement with the Molonglo Valley Community Forum in the delivery of this service. For further information please contact Mr Chris Harris, Assistant Director, Project Management via email at christopher.harris@act.gov.au or by phone on (02) 5124 2138.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and I hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA