



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care



RURAL DOCTORS NETWORK

phn
WESTERN NSW

An Australian Government Initiative

Interim arrangements for access to medical care in Balranald

Community Update: New GP Services in Balranald

Dear Community Members,

We hope this message finds you well. We want to inform you of recent developments regarding GP services in Balranald.

Dr. Zotov's Departure and New GP Services

As many of you are aware, Dr. Zotov concluded his long-standing practice at the Balranald Multi-purpose Service (MPS) on Friday, 31 May 2024. In response, the following arrangements have been made to ensure continued healthcare access:

- **Emergency and Acute Services:** The Far West Local Health District (LHD) has organised virtual coverage for emergency department, acute beds, and aged care residents at Balranald MPS. This service will be managed by experienced emergency medicine doctors, available 24/7. The dedicated nursing staff at MPS will provide essential support for this virtual medical service.
- **Dr. Sujay:** Dr Sujay is away for two weeks over the school holiday period. Dr Sujay's next clinic will be on the 20th of July 2024. To schedule a virtual appointment with Dr. Sujay, please contact **0492 865 921** (temporary contact until Dr Sujay gains access to Balranald Practice).
- **Medical Records and Continuity of Care:** Dr. Sujay is actively working to gain access to all retained medical records from Dr. Zotov's practice, ensuring seamless continuity of care. The Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) is assisting in the transition of these records.
- **Permanent Doctor for Balranald:** The Far Western Local Health District, led by General Manager Craig Bennett, met with a Doctor from Melbourne on 5th July 2024, as part of its ongoing efforts to find a permanent doctor for Balranald. The meeting, organised by the Rural Doctors Network, was very positive, and the doctor has expressed a keen interest. The Western New South Wales Primary Health Network has also met with the doctor to discuss his interest in taking over the practice. The Doctor is very interested in managing the practice, provided it is sustainable. We are working with all parties to ascertain the level of assistance that can be provided during the initial stages.

We are grateful to the Rural Doctors Network (RDN) for their partnership in attracting a potential new doctor to Balranald. Their expertise and connection are invaluable to securing ongoing GP services to the community.

Additional Support and Contact Information

For medical advice or assistance outside of regular hours, Healthdirect is available 24/7 at 1800 022 222 or online at www.healthdirect.gov.au.

Contact Details for Queries

For inquiries regarding emergency department or acute services at **MPS**, please contact:

- Phone: (03) 5071 9800

For questions about **Balranald GP services** or related matters, please contact:

- Temporary Phone: **0492 865 921** (until Dr. Sujay gains access to Balranald Practice)

We will provide updates on progress towards a permanent solution on a weekly basis. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this period of transition.