

## 1.1. Mayoral Minute - Lithgow Community Private Hospital and Specialist Centre

**Report by** Mayor – Councillor Cassandra Coleman

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### Commentary

The provision of good health services across the LGA in our towns and rural areas is an important focus.

There have been examples of both the exemplary services provided by local health providers to in-need members of our community, and of the challenges that our community faces accessing some other critical health services.

While we as Council work with our range of local and governmental health providers to retain and improve the services we should have as a community, I also wish to encourage our community to use our local community health providers that do provide key services.

The more our community uses local health services, whether it be our very experienced and focussed GP's or specialists that provide services to the Lithgow community, the more those services feel valued and encouraged to remain.

One local key health provider I would like to remind the community about is the key specialist services provided by our very own Lithgow Community Private Hospital and Specialist Centre. Lithgow Community Private was created by the Lithgow community for the community about 23 years ago when we faced closure of our public hospital.

Lithgow Community Private is a not-for-profit charitable organisation.

Lithgow Community Private supports local doctors and hosts a team of over twenty visiting medical specialists that come to Lithgow to see patients, so they don't have to leave town to see them. These specialist services include cardiologists, orthopaedic surgeons, ophthalmology services and neurologists to name just a few.

Each year this local specialist centre provides over 10,000 patient appointments. Without this service, all these patients would have to travel out of our LGA. That includes 750 surgeries that would otherwise have to be done in the public hospital, reducing their capacity, or sent to hospitals in Penrith, Bathurst, Orange or beyond. Since Lithgow Community Private's inception that's about a quarter of a million trips outside of the LGA saved.

Despite this Lithgow Community private needs more community support. The combined effects of Covid, the further restriction of medical services in Lithgow, increasing costs, and limited availability of professionals means that Lithgow Community Private is struggling to maintain and grow these important community services.

I would like to encourage our residents in Lithgow to check with Lithgow Community Private or your local GP to see if a specialist is available to help you avoid traveling out of town.

It is important that we utilise our local health services so that we don't lose them.

### Attachments

Nil

### Recommendation

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THAT Council endorse the Mayoral Minute to encourage community support for Lithgow residents to utilise Lithgow Community Private if a specialist is available.