

Message from the Colville Community Health Trust

For over two decades Dr Kate Armstrong has dedicated her life to running the Colville Community Health Centre. Her tireless commitment, compassion, and selflessness have touched countless lives over this time. We also acknowledge the wonderful support her husband Richard has provided to her behind the scenes, enabling her to work as she has. The Colville Community Health Trust wishes to thank Dr Kate for her hard work as a provider of General Practice services and her devotion to serving the community in this way. We thank Kate wholeheartedly for all she has done, and wish her all the best for whatever her future holds.

The Colville Community Health Trust confirms that it is still committed to supporting the provision of health services in the Northern Coromandel. We are keen to support any opportunities that arise for this community through this change of service provider. We can advise that currently there is one expression of interest.

We have been in communication with Dr Bryan MacLeod from Coromandel Family Health Centre, who is currently working with the Hauraki PHO to find a way to continue the provision of a GP service to Colville and surrounds. Dr Bryan is keen to find a way to support the health needs of the northern Coromandel area that is responsive and achievable and has expressed to us his willingness to maintain as much as possible of the 'Colville model' that Dr Kate, with the Health Trust's support has developed. This includes building relationships with the Health Trust, the clinic, the Nursing service, the Prime/First Response and continuing with community engagement. Dr Bryan has indicated that Dr Alex McLeod will most likely be the GP visiting Colville on a part time basis.

The Colville Community Health Trust has written a letter of support for Dr MacLeod as he works with The Hauraki PHO to find a GP solution for Colville. We will continue our conversation with Dr Bryan and suggest that if you have any thoughts or questions regarding the GP service going forward, that you email them to the colvilletrustmanager@gmail.com so that we can seek feedback and clarity going forward. We are planning to have a community meeting with Dr MacLeod a little later in the month of October, so keep a watch out for notification of this.

Whilst the decision of who provides a GP service in Colville does not sit with the Colville Community Health Trust, it is likely we will provide the venue and the equipment for any new practitioner coming in. At this stage, the facility at 2299 Colville Road will continue to be a health centre for the community and we will continue to be open to options for use by a multitude of health practitioners.

The Colville Community Health Trust is also steadfast in its efforts as part of the Colville Project. The development of the Wellbeing and Education Centre remains the first step of The Colville Project and the Colville Community Health Trust is actively involved in bringing this to fruition.

We will update you again, as and when we can.

Jo Herbert

Chair - On behalf of the Colville Community Health Trust