

## OTHER INFORMATION

**Speech**

**Cr J Sale**

**Sept 2013**

Good evening everyone

The Winton Aged Care Facility – Jessamine Place will make a big change for many of our older residents as it will provide some certainty that they will be able to remain close to their family, their friends and their community as they transition through their twilight years.

The most important outcome of the facility is that our senior residents will not have to leave town for care which means starting again;

- Meeting new people
- Adjusting to new surroundings
- Missing family and friends

What we are seeking to develop in Winton is a home, so that husbands and wives don't have to live two hours apart with Longreach being the closest care facility.

We are trying to ensure that our senior citizens remain in contact with family, lifelong friends and colleagues to ensure that they can continue to support each other as they transition through ageing.

The proposed facility will also provide an opportunity for residents who have had to leave for care to return home. Jessamine Place is an identified need in our Aged Care Study, a five pronged strategy to transition our residents through ageing.

The first step is In Home Support to keep people living in their own homes as long as possible.

Second step, Diamantina Gardens Independent Living Units

Third Step, Jessamine Place is intended to fill the current gap in services for people who find they cannot live independently anymore, but do not have high care needs.

Jessamine Place will provide comfortable single en-suited rooms for residents with shared meal and recreational areas. Currently, at Winton this is where we have to send our loved ones away as there is nowhere to accommodate them. The nearest place is the Pioneers Home in Longreach, some two hours away. The effect of this is dramatic. Rather than daily contact with family and friends, this is reduced to, at best, weekly visits.

Winton Multi-Purpose Health Service provides high care support for a limited number of people in Winton once they get to a stage where they need a high level of care.

The final component to our Aged Care Strategy is the wonderful support services that keep our senior citizens engaged in the community and very importantly, keep their minds active.

Services such as Central West Community Options, 60's and Better, Meals on Wheels and the Men's Shed play an important role in keeping our seniors engaged in the community. These services work across the spectrum of accommodation options.

Tonight we are talking about Jessamine Place though. This accommodation option is critical to the success of the Aged Care Strategy. It is the current gap in the services available and it is the one that can be most stressful for our senior citizens.

Council has committed to the construction of the facility and we are asking for your support tonight. Jessamine Place will fill the gap in our Aged Care Services. It will allow our Community Members to stay with us when we need each other the most. We can start looking after those who prepared the way for us and who built the Winton that we enjoy today.

Please give generously towards the fund.

All donations are tax deductible.