

Membership Welcome

Hi – thank you for joining us as we work toward bringing a variety of health services to the island, and apologies for the lag between signing up and seeing this acknowledgement letter. We very much appreciate everyone who shows support by taking out a membership, and we aim to keep you in the loop by sending an update each month. **We have membership cards** printed up, which can be collected from the letterbox at 1 Orange Grove St, or at the upcoming public meeting (see below).

To date we have over 50 members with almost \$2500 raised in membership fees, and are hoping for many more as we keep working toward more and better health services on island.

Upcoming events

The Health Hub will have a presence at the Op Shop gatherings (first Saturday morning of each month), at Flinders Day Markets (Sunday 16th July), and at our first AGM with a public meeting following. Everyone is invited:

Health Hub AGM & Public Meeting Sunday 6th August 2pm Rec Club

A separate notice of meeting and call for nominations for committee will be sent out soon.

The story so far

With our intention to co-ordinate major building project/s and manage a complex mix of health service delivery on island, we've needed to set up a solid foundation. We have...

- Set up a non-profit organisation, including a committee, insurance, website, member register and productivity tools.
- Found much outside expert help, including from Redland Council (David Scott & Larissa Godfrey), Dept Regional Development (Steve McDonald), pro bono legal help (Heath Gleig-Scott), consultancy (Gigi Lacey), and soon connecting with people from QHealth and PHN (public health network – a doctor advocacy group).
- Conducted our first public meeting (you were probably there)
- Started exploring options to house health services as below:
 - Sourcing a room for Bruce Willet GP to practice from, starting any time now. The SLSC room was inadequate due to lack of storage, internet, A/C and accessible toilets so we are now looking at two other options: using the Rec Club storage room (our preferred option), or booking the room beside the library in the Community Hall. This to be a short term option until a more permanent facility is available.
 - We have rejected an idea to take on Gindabara as a combination of long-term rental accommodation PLUS health services, on the basis that it was not financially viable to do so.
 - We are investigating the possibility of locating a demountable doctor's room either on council land somewhere, or on Carolyn's land behind the Native Nursery. This would be a medium term option and involve fundraising and/or grant applications.
 - We are investigating the possibility of having two or three rooms made available for health services in a mooted Rec Club extension, again on a temporary basis until something dedicated and permanent is available. This is a very preliminary thought requiring significant co-ordination between Rec Club, Health Hub and RCC – currently at 'heads nodding' stage in both island committees.
 - We are also progressing the idea of partnering with the owner of 2 William St (across from where ambulance is parked now) such that he provides land, one or several





government agencies fund a building development, the Health Hub manages the resulting mix of tenancies, and the owner eventually receives an income from leasing. We are currently working up to an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the owner which is a prelude to a proper contract down the line.

- Meanwhile we are talking with QHealth, PHN, and RCC about how best to frame our approach, which gaps to focus on and which grants we could apply for.

Please note our care in phrasing... much of what we are doing is *exploratory* meaning it might come to nothing, or it might evolve into something quite different. We ask members to take care how they communicate with others... underline the word **maybe** for pretty much all we're doing.

Questions we're asking

The Health Hub is starting to gather information on health services currently on offer. If you are a health provider in any form (medical, mental, alternative) providing some kind of service on the island **please let us know** so we can publish details on our website (<https://coochie-health-hub.org>). In particular we need locations of all the defibrillators on island, with contact details of who has the key to the building. It just may be handy to have that list on the website...

We're also interested in chatting with anyone interested in offering health services in the future. Our contact details are at bottom of the page.

In short...

- Thank you for joining!
- We're already actively working to bring a doctor back to the island
- We're exploring many options for longer term solutions
- **come along to our public meeting on 6th August with your friends**
- keep an eye out for monthly email updates
- check our website for more information <https://coochie-health-hub>
- get in touch if you have any questions, or you have information on health provision services

Thank you,

On behalf of the committee

Russell Austerberry (secretary, Coochiemudlo Island Health Hub)

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