



**Our Ref:** DS/CT File HLTH.9  
**Enquiries:** Dale Stewart

4 September 2014

Ms L Pearson  
Regional Manager, Country Primary Health  
Silver Chain  
91 Seymour Street  
ALBANY WA 6330

**Please treat this  
email as the  
original and  
only copy**

Emailed to: [Lesley.Pearson@silverchain.org.au](mailto:Lesley.Pearson@silverchain.org.au)

Dear Lesley

**Re: Walpole Health Services**

*Council has been verbally advised of a reduction in funding for or by the Silver Chain that has had an impact on availability of GP services in the Shire of Manjimup affecting the townsite of Walpole.*

*Some residents and ratepayers of the Shire of Denmark, from the adjoining localities of Peaceful Bay, Tingle Dale and Nornalup, have subsequently approached Council with a request to consider assisting the service to retain the previous level of GP services.*

*In this regard, and as Council has only heard of the service reduction impacts third hand, it would be appreciated if you could advise, in writing, what range and hours of GP services were provided and are no longer available (to the same extent) in Walpole and the reasons why those services have had to be rationalised or reduced in the manner they have and whether the funding shortfall is likely to continue or indeed further erode?*

*Your additional comments on what level of Council cash contribution might be required, for what predicted or desired period, who it might be paid to, and what specific services or outlays it would be used for, would also be appreciated.*

*This information will then be utilised to determine what level of contribution and or on what basis such a contribution might be considered by the Shire of Denmark on behalf of our constituents.*

*Should you require further information or advice on this matter please contact the undersigned on telephone (08) 9848 0300 or email [enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au).*

Yours faithfully

Dale Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Councillors

**30 September 2014 - Attachment 8.5.2a**

12 September 2014

Dale Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Denmark  
PO Box 183  
Denmark WA 6333

Dear Dale

It was great to catch up with you today in Denmark. Please find attached information as requested in your letter forwarded to Silver Chain office on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014

#### **RPHS funding – GP support**

The RPHS (Regional Health Services funding) ceased as of 30 June 2014. This funding provided on call and travel assistance for the GP and visiting allied health services to Walpole. This was a project to support services to develop sustainable Primary Health services to the Walpole community. The funding was to encourage private practice to service Walpole, Silver Chain have not been a provider of GP services. This project also provided some resource for administration in project report writing and administrative support to the GP.

Following on from this funding in this financial year, the South West Medicare Local is working with Silver Chain to identify sustainable ways to provide services to the Walpole community. Through collaboration with a range of providers, South West Medicare Local is:

- Continuing to fund incentive payments for after-hours services to GPs providing a service to Walpole.
- Funding from the locum support program which provides incentives for GPs to take leave.
- Fund where identified a range of programs such as Access to Allied Psychological Services and allied health.
- Provide training to Silver Chain staff in the PPP Program. ( Link in email)

#### **GP visits**

Currently the GP from Denmark Medical visits 5 days a fortnight, previously, Dr Virginia Longley attended 6 days. This may be due to the scheduling and efficiency of the Denmark Medical centre practice.

I would suggest if you wish for further practice information contact the Manager Chris Swarts on 0437322177.

**30 September 2014 - Attachment 8.5.2b**

### **Current Active clients**

Walpole data software advises that there are 327 active clients at this Health centre. 71 with a Nornalup postcode: 60 from Peaceful Bay and 23 from Tinglewood. In total that is 154 within the Denmark shire catchment area.

### **Other items discussed:**

- Aged Health Care reform and CDC- Action Lesley to procure data from RAS (link in email)
- Health Navigator implementation proposed for the Great Southern region in January 2015
- Transitional Care Packages (TCP) for the Great Southern (link in email)

I also do apologise that we had not copied your office into the many communications and media over the Walpole GP issue and have flagged this with our office to forward such information if deemed appropriate in the future.

I have requested that we schedule a regular catch up every couple of months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesley Pearson".

Lesley Pearson  
Regional Manager  
Country Primary Health

25 September 2014

Dale Stewart  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Denmark  
PO Box 183  
DENMARK WA 6333

Dear Dale

### **Funding to Walpole health Services by Denmark Shire**

I have been informed that the intention of your letter forwarded to this office on the 4 September 2014 and our follow up meeting on 12 September was also to discuss the contribution by Denmark Shire to the GP administration support at the Walpole Health center.

I did not raise the matter of this agreed \$10k funding at our meeting on the 12 as I had been advised that this request was agreed by council and had been processed I understand now that you require further detail on this contribution.

In the absence of this funding Silver Chain will only be able to provide in kind support to the GP through offering clinic space and access to the clinical nurse with no administration support.

This administration support is critical to the GP practice and would be prohibitive in a new practice to their productivity having an impact on their viability. The full cost recovery of a 0.4 FTE to Silver Chain in administration is \$ 11,302 .00. Silver Chain is currently funding the administration of 0.8 FTE in anticipation of funds from Denmark and Manjimup shires and a contract of employment was signed by the employee on this basis.

If this is not forthcoming Silver Chain will not be able to sustain this investment as we have no allocated budget and will reluctantly have no option but to withdraw this resource.

I thank you and the Denmark councillors for their commitment to ensure that the visiting communities to the Walpole health centre have this GP support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further details

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Pearson".

Lesley Pearson  
Regional Manager  
Country Primary Health

**30 September 2014 - Attachment 8.5.2c**