



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor calls for Minister to sign off on Multi Purpose Services in Walcha, Bingara, Guyra and Warialda

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has written to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Kay Patterson requesting information regarding delays to the announcement of the Multi Purpose Services (MPS) in Walcha, Bingara, Guyra and Warialda.

Mr Windsor said he has been advised that all the protocols relating to the establishment of the Multi Purpose Services in those centres had been assessed and signed off at a bureaucratic level of both the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments.

Mr Windsor has called on the Minister for Health to expedite the arrangements so that the MPSs can be established.

“The Multi Purpose Service (MPS) concept and criteria has been endorsed at a Federal level, it’s time that the Commonwealth Government announced the projects.

The delay in the announcement was stopping the establishment of improved health facilities in the communities of Walcha, Bingara, Guyra and Warialda,” Mr Windsor said.

The MPS model proposed for the four communities was established under the Chairmanship of the former Member for New England, the Rt Hon Ian Sinclair, which recognised the need for flexibility in health care delivery in small communities.

The State Government funds any capital requirements in terms of buildings and the ongoing acute care needs, whilst the Federal Government funds the recurrent expenditure for the aged care beds in the MPS.

“My understanding is that the documents are on the Federal Minister’s desk for signing off and I look forward to this happening sooner rather than later,” Mr Windsor said.