



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **North West Slopes doctors congratulated on funding success for new Health Centre**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has congratulated the doctors of North West Slopes Division of General Practice on the announcement of Federal funding for their new health-care centre to be located in Tamworth.

“The announcement of \$196,000 in Federal Government funding for the North West Slopes Division of General Practice to establish a new health care service in Tamworth is certainly good news not only for Tamworth but also for people of communities surrounding Tamworth who find it difficult to access a doctor when they need them and their own doctor is unavailable.

I congratulate the doctors of the Division for their commitment to providing a high quality health service to the community as well as providing an opportunity for doctors to practice in a country centre without the added setup expenses and also thank the Federal Government for their contribution.

It’s a model that I’m sure other communities and similar organisations of GPs will be watching closely to gauge its success,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also congratulated Tamworth Regional Council for its contribution.

“Tamworth Regional Council through its predecessor Tamworth City Council has been a leader in the field of pushing for greater access to health services in country communities.

In recent years Council has hosted a national rural health conference to search for solutions to problems faced by country communities in accessing doctors and other allied health services.

Council also established a working group to get a 24hr clinic operating in Tamworth.

To now be able to join with our local doctors in an innovative model for delivering health services is a credit to them for their persistence on the issue over many years,” Mr Windsor said.

Whilst the centre still requires another \$200,000 before it can open, Mr Windsor believes that this money will be able to be found from other sources.

“I’m sure the community will do as they have done in the past and pitch in and get behind this very worthwhile community facility.

The community will benefit greatly by the establishment of this new health-care centre and I look forward to being of assistance to the groups wherever I can,” Mr Windsor said.

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