



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

21 July 2009

Windsor to fight to keep Bundarra Aged Care open

The Grace Munro Centre – Bundarra’s aged care facility is about to face another battle to provide services to the small community south of Inverell and the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is about to ask the people of Bundarra to be ready to put the gloves on again.

Rumours about the Bundarra Aged Care Facility ceasing to operate were confirmed yesterday when the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor spoke with Paul Cook, the CEO of the organisation that currently runs the facility, the Inverell-based H.N. McLean Retirement Village.

Mr Windsor does not blame the McLean Retirement Village for their decision to not renew their management agreement with the Uralla Shire Council however Mr Windsor wants to examine all options of keeping it open.

“The establishment of the Bundarra Aged Care facility, the Grace Munro Centre was driven by the community with much fundraising and support by the people of the area undertaken and finally opened in 2004 with much celebration.

The McLean Retirement Village entered into an agreement with the Uralla Shire Council – owners of the building – to operate the aged care component of the facility for five years.

Fluctuating bed occupancy has meant that for the past two years the centre has operated at a loss.

This is not to say that it should not remain open, however the community needs to get ready for another rally around to show their commitment to having the Grace Munro Centre continue to operate,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has been informed by Mr Cook that it is the intention of the McLean Retirement Village to give three months notice on August 1 to the Department of Ageing that they will be ceasing to operate the centre.

This means that the service will cease to operate as of October 31.

“I am very disappointed that the Grace Munro Centre and the Bundarra community are going to face this battle.

However, I will be investigating all options as I’m sure will Uralla Shire Council and the community will and once again they will get together to maintain this important service for Bundarra,” Mr Windsor said.

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