



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Bundarra Aged Care Facility gets 90 day extension**

The battle to keep the Grace Munro Aged Care Centre open in Bundarra received a major boost today with the Department of Ageing accepting a request by the community committee for a 90 day extension to it remaining open whilst it goes through the Department's process of becoming an accredited aged care provider in its own right.

The good news was relayed by the Minister for Ageing's Office to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor who has been liaising with the Minister's office, the Department of Ageing, the H.N. McLean Retirement Village, The Uralla Shire Council, Accountant Mr Max Elphick and the Bundarra Community Committee.

Mr Windsor is very pleased that this extension has been obtained.

"The 90 day extension to the aged care services at the Grace Munro Centre is an excellent outcome.

"It will allow time to put in place an appropriate structure for the Bundarra Community to apply to take over the operations of the Centre and also within that period, it will allow both the community and the Department to be able to ascertain the long term viability of the Centre," Mr Windsor said.

Whilst the extension has been achieved, Mr Windsor says there is still a lot of work to be done.

"The challenge is still very much with the Community to negotiate with the Department of Ageing over the viability and operational issues such as Board structure and the broader community involvement.

"I would therefore encourage the Bundarra community to become involved in the process as numbers will be very important.

"I thank Minister Elliot, her Ministerial staff and Departmental officers for the assistance thus far and trust that this step is the first to a positive future of the Grace Munro Centre and Bundarra.

I also thank the McLean Retirement Village for their agreement to continue to provide their services over this extension period.

Uralla Shire Council has also displayed strong leadership in support of this community asset and the input from accountant Max Elphick has been invaluable – overall a real team effort has helped get us to this next stage in the process and I am hopeful that it will bring about the desired result," Mr Windsor said.

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