

MEDIA RELEASE

October 6, 2021

Minor Accident and Illness Centre (Urgent Care) Closure in Morayfield/Caboolture

MORAYFIELD, QUEENSLAND – Effective 1st October 2021, Urgent Care services will no longer be available at the Minor Accident and Illness Centre in Morayfield/Caboolture. Discontinued non-life-threatening urgent services include, but are not limited to:

- Fractures that require plastering or casting,
- Fracture management,
- Large wound suturing,
- Treatment of burns and lacerations,
- Serious eye and ear injuries, and
- Ambulance drop-off to receive care for minor accidents and illnesses.

Director of the Minor Accident and Illness Centre, Dr. Evan Jones, expressed disappointment in the lack of government support for a demonstrated, evidence-based model of Urgent Care medicine which has provided an appropriate, cost-effective integrated patient-centered care option for patients in the community.

‘As of today, there are over 9,700 names on a petition circulating in our community, asking both levels of government to take action immediately, to reduce congestion and wait times at our public hospitals, and to support an alternative services option for medical conditions which do not require lifesaving intervention’.

‘After reading through the hundreds of comments left by petitioners, it is evident that the model of urgent care service that has been delivered at the Minor Accident and Illness Centre over the past 4 years is supported and viewed as an essential health service in our community’, said Dr. Evan Jones.

Due to the closure, residents with non-life threatening, urgent health conditions who present to the Health Hub Morayfield will be referred to their nearest public hospital. Bookings for routine, medical consultations with a family doctor at Health Hub Doctors Morayfield will remain open and available to patients.

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Backgrounder

The Minor Accident and Illness Centre has been in operation in Morayfield/Caboolture as a demonstration site for urgent care services since 7th December 2017. Its purpose is to provide non-appointment care to patients who present with acute injuries or illnesses and are triaged on arrival.

The clinic operated 7 days a week, 365 days a year, from 8am to 8pm. To ensure the highest quality and safety of care, the facility was equipped from internal resources. Staff was trained to manage urgent medical conditions and minor accidents, including a priority diagnostic screening.

Until its closure on 1st October 2021, the Minor Accident and Illness Centre treated up to 250 patients per day, thereby reducing the number of non-life threatening, urgent, and acute accident presentations to local public emergency departments. Patients were triaged immediately after arrival. The average patient wait time from triage to delivery of care was 9 minutes.