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Ms Janie Finlay MP
Member for Bass
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Constituent Question: George Town Physiotherapy Services Proposed Reduction

Dear Ms ~~Finlay~~ *Janie*

Thank you for your question on behalf of the President, Committee, and members of the George Town Auxiliary regarding physiotherapy services in George Town.

Primary Health North (PHN) have provided information regarding their physiotherapy services in response to the concerns you have raised.

PHN Physiotherapy (Physio) Services provide Physio services to each of the eight district hospitals and three community health centres in the Northern region. The Physio team rotate around the region, sharing the travel amongst the team, and allowing them to all develop an understanding of each different community within the Northern region and readily cover staff leave.

The Physio team deliver physio services to where they are most needed by monitoring referrals and outpatient waitlists to prioritise allocation of resources. In 2021, a higher level of Physio services was introduced at George Town District Hospital (GTDH) as part of a Subacute Project trial. Following the end of this trial, PHN continued to support the site with services at a higher level than necessary given relative demand.

Due to increasing waitlists at other sites, it is no longer possible for PHN to maintain a higher level of service at George Town. To counteract any impact of this change, the physiotherapy team will provide an Allied Health Assistant who will continue to see patients at GTDH, assisting in the management of exercise programs, follow up appointments and liaison with the physiotherapy team.

Eligible clients may also be referred to suitable health promotion programs, such as 'Live Well, Live Long', and PHN will continue to monitor referrals and waitlists closely to realign services as needed.

Thank you for again for raising this matter and the concerns of the George Town Hospital Auxiliary. Please note that I have also directly replied to correspondence from Ms Dawn Grech, Secretary, George Town Hospital Auxiliary on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing