



MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: 21 August 2023

Approved by: Cr Kevin Beatty, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation, Mayor of Cabonne Council and Mr Richard Colbran, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Doctors Network

Central NSW Joint Organisation to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Rural Doctors Network

The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members. People living in regional and remote regions have a shorter life expectancy than their city counterparts. On average, people living in regional and rural Local Health Districts live 2.2 years less than people in metropolitan Local Health Districts. The more remote the worse it gets.

“This is something that the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) and the Rural Doctors Network (RDN) would like to do something about. 100% of our communities in Central NSW see health as a priority. While delivering health services for our communities is not the core business of local councils, as health services withdraw our communities call on their leaders to act,” said Councillor Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne and Chair of CNSWJO.

“Metro-comparable health outcomes should not be too much to ask. That is why we are teaming up with the Rural Doctors Network and signing a Memorandum of Understanding,” said Councillor Beatty

“RDN sees value in formally recognising its joint interests with CNSWJO in getting more substantial health outcomes for remote, rural and regional NSW and developing collaborative activities that support the continued growth and sustainability of NSW’s rural health systems, infrastructure and workforce,” said Richard Colbran, Rural Doctors Network CEO.

“This MoU will see CNSWJO and RDN pilot a Regional Community Health System and Workforce Engagement project with the intention to rollout across the whole of regional NSW. The pilot will enable the construction of a framework and enable evaluation of the hoped for benefits and outcomes,” said Mr Colbran

“This will better position our communities in getting the programming they need including changes to service delivery and ultimately getting more metro-comparable health outcomes,” said Councillor Beatty

The MoU will be signed at Parliament House Thursday 24 August and presented to the NSW Government at the meeting of the CNSWJO Board with State representatives including the Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr Michael Holland MP.

ENDS

For media enquiry contact Chair, Kevin Beatty 0439 506 596 or RDN, David Peters 0413 872 491