



**Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA  
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

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Our Ref: 76-33911

Mr Shane Love MLA  
Leader of the Nationals WA  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000  
Email: [shane.love@loop.wa.gov.au](mailto:shane.love@loop.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Love

*Shane,*

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2024 regarding Yalgoo Nursing Post.

WA Country Health Service (WACHS) completed the development of a service plan to support the delivery of sustainable health services for the Murchison in 2023. As part of the Murchison Multi-Purpose Service, the requirements of Yalgoo Nursing Post (NP) were reviewed and taken into consideration.

Yalgoo operates as a single nurse post with a Clinical Nurse Specialist providing outpatient and emergency services between 8am and 4pm weekdays. Emergency Department and outpatient activity have continued to decline over time. Although there is no after-hours on call, the nurse will attend high acuity after-hours emergencies where possible.

I do recognise the distances that St Johns Ambulance (SJA) volunteers travel throughout the State to ensure patients are transported to hospitals that can provide the appropriate level of care. WACHS engages regularly with SJA representatives to work together regarding transport for regional communities.

WACHS single nursing posts employ remote area nurses (RANs). A RAN is a well-established and developed clinician with a level and type of practice that functions at the full extent of their scope of practice. They are experts in their field and work with a high level of autonomy within their respective scopes.

The WACHS Emergency Telehealth Service (ETS) is a telemedicine service provided by Emergency Medicine specialists using high-definition video-conferencing equipment. This supports clinicians working in areas to manage and treat emergency department patients and improve access and outcomes. ETS cannot function without skilled practitioners on the ground to provide the right care, at the right time.

This model empowers staff on the ground, provides clinical support for diagnosis and treatment, and eliminates working in isolation. Having care provided by a multidisciplinary team, as is the case with ETS, empowers nurses and supports enhancement of their skills guided by experts in the emergency medicine field.

The recent Silver Chain site transition to WACHS included a changed management process for nurses previously working under a different clinical governance model. It is acknowledged that this takes time. I am advised, based on feedback from the staff, that through ongoing support and communication these staff have adjusted well to policy, system changes and feel well supported.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and I trust this information will be of assistance.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amber Sanderson".

HON AMBER JADE SANDERSON MLA  
**MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH**

14 AUG 2024