



Mr Andrew Barr MLA
Member for Kurrajong Legislative Assembly for the ACT GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Chief Minister

RE Retain the hydrotherapy pool at the Canberra Hospital

On behalf of the residents of the Tuggeranong Valley I would ask that you reconsider your decision to close the hydrotherapy pool at the Canberra Hospital (TCH) in June 2019.

The benefits from such a pool are well known and are very beneficial for many older residents, many of whom live in Tuggeranong, Woden and Weston Creek . While I understand that the new University of Canberra Hospital (UCH) will provide rehabilitation services for Canberra's growing population, this is a long way from many residents in the South some of whom would have major difficulty getting there.

We believe there should be publicly funded hydrotherapy services both sides of the lake. While currently it could be said the population of the north is growing faster than the south, with Molonglo developing fast and more building in Woden there is also a projected growing population in the South, and, as I said before a large percentage of older people who would have need of these services.

We are concerned about the capacity of the UCH to service the growing number of people in the south requiring hydrotherapy services. Without the hydrotherapy pool at TCH, it is likely that clients will be asked to travel to the hydrotherapy pool at the UCH. Without a car, this will require significant time for community members with mobility issues to walk to bus stops and change buses to access the pool in Bruce. For those that need to take a taxi, access to services becomes very costly.

Woden is centrally located on the main north-south and east-west public transport alignments making it accessible and an ideal location to locate facilities and an easier place for people from Tuggeranong, Weston, Woden and Molonglo to get to. We need to provide service to all the people of Canberra and make them readily accessible for all.

Glenys Patulny
President
Tuggeranong Community Council