Emergency 24/7 ‘on-call’ roster changes at Albany Hospital

The WA Country Health Service has stepped in to ensure patients from Albany’s general practice, known as ‘The Surgery’, continue to have access to ‘around-the-clock’ emergency and medical care at Albany Hospital.

WA Country Health Service-Great Southern, Regional Director, Robert Pulsford said new arrangements would be introduced next month in response to difficulties experienced by ‘The Surgery’, a key participant in the traditional “on-call” emergency and medical roster.

“Due to recent resignations and difficulties recruiting replacement general practitioners at ‘The Surgery’, the practice has indicated it will be unable to provide medical cover beyond the end of this month,” Mr Pulsford said.

“The WA Country Health Service will employ locum medical practitioners to provide emergency department and inpatient coverage for ‘The Surgery’s’ patients.”

“Patient care and safety is paramount and will not be compromised by the new arrangement,” Mr Pulsford said.

“Albany residents who attend other general practices and visitors to the region will not be affected by the new arrangement.”

“It’s envisaged the employment of locum doctors will be trialed on a short term basis to give ‘The Surgery’ more opportunity to recruit the general practitioners required,” Mr Pulsford said.

The Albany Hospital is the regional resource centre for the Great Southern Region and more than twenty two thousand people attend the hospital’s emergency department each year.

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