

Kookaburra Court

General Manager Mike Urquhart said Walgett Shire Council was deeply disappointed with Whiddon Groups closure of Walgetts aged care facility Kookaburra Court at the end of March 2022.

Kookaburra Court has been a well-managed and maintained aged care facility that has been home for many elderly residents of Walgett Shire over the past 30 years, with Whiddon Group having managed the facility for the past 13 1/2 years.

Whiddon Group last year did signal to the community that closure was imminent should resident numbers not improve as the facility was losing a quarter of a million dollars annually. This has no doubt been a difficult decision for the Whiddon Group executive, a closure that has far reaching consequences for affected residents, their families, staff, their families and the greater Walgett business houses that supported Kookaburra Court in some way.

Perhaps the diminishing demand for aged care in Walgett can be best described as collateral damage, fallout from the Royal Commission into Aged Care report, the pandemic and increased Government care subsidy packages to assist the elderly to remain in their homes.

The General Manager said Council would support Whiddon Group where possible with its winding up of the facility and its move for the Kookaburra Court property and building to be retained as an asset for the greater Walgett community.