



## MEDIA RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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### **Whiddon Walgett to become new Community Hub**

In March 2022, Whiddon Walgett made the difficult decision to close its 8 bed Aged Care Home after providing care in the town for more than a decade. The decision was made following a decline in demand for our aged care services in Walgett over the previous years.

Since then, Whiddon has worked with residents to find them a new place to call home. Additionally, Whiddon has been seeking to gift the building to a suitable new owner given it is a valuable community asset.

Whiddon is pleased to announce that Walgett Shire Council has been successful in their submission to take ownership of the property and provide a multi-function community space for the Walgett Community. The decision follows a rigorous submission and consultation process.

**Chris Mamarelis, Whiddon's CEO**, said "Although the decision to close our home in Walgett was very difficult, we are proud to gift this property to the Walgett Community, under the care of the Walgett Shire Council. The Council plans to make the property a Community Hub, where support agencies and businesses can operate and provide services to the Community, is a real win for Walgett".

**Mike Urquhart, General Manager, Walgett Shire Council**, said "I'm delighted with the news Whiddon has chosen our Council as the preferred organisation to take over the property. We are committed to transforming the property to a Community Hub, which will include a Visitor Information Centre, café/coffee shop, office space and accommodation for visiting professionals, community meeting rooms, caravan park (at rear), and emergency short term accommodation for NDIS clients".

Mr. Urquhart thanked Whiddon for its generous donation of the property and for having the confidence in Walgett Shire Council to develop, operate and maintain a community support space for the people of Walgett shire.

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**Contact:**

Belinda Ackermann  
Marketing and Communications Manager  
Whiddon  
Glenfield NSW 2167  
Tel: (02) 9827 6628

**About Whiddon:**

- Whiddon is an award-winning aged care provider with residential care, community care and retirement villages across New South Wales and Queensland.
- From our philanthropic beginnings, we have grown into a large not-for-profit organisation with more than 2,300 customers and over 2,000 employees.
- We've been providing exceptional care to older Australians across regional, rural and remote NSW and QLD for more than 70 years. Our strong presence in regional, rural and remote NSW and QLD sets us at the heart of our local communities, both as an employer and aged care provider.
- Whiddon is passionate about enriching lives and keeping older people connected to what matters most to them in life. We aim to really understand each person through building deep relationships with them, their family and their community.
- Our approach to care and wellbeing is holistic. Staying connected, active and feeling part of a community are essential to wellbeing.
- To find out more about Whiddon, please visit [whiddon.com.au](http://whiddon.com.au)