

## THE FACTS

Dr David Roufael originally left the 13 Lyall street Surgery in Westbury due to being forced to leave the premises by the then landlord.

The Westbury Medical Centre business was purchased from Dr G Trezise by Dr Messiah in Burnie and it was business as usual until February 2009 when Dr Messiah decided to close the Westbury Medical Centre. Dr Roufael from the Deloraine Medical Centre heard about this closure and approached Dr Messiah in Burnie and purchased the Westbury Surgery business to keep it open for its patients from the local area. The building was leased from Penny Hickman and Associates. Unfortunately the closure is blamed on Deloraine Medical when in fact, it kept the surgery open when Burnie was closing it. This was not going to be made public, just closing the doors.

Unfortunately the Surgery began to lose patients for many reasons and was no longer viable financially. The Westbury Surgery was fully funded from the Deloraine Medical Centre and in no way received any government funding as it is a private practice not government owned. The Westbury Medical Centre is also a privately owned business even though community funding and support is being sought after.

The Westbury Surgery was closed after 8 months due to not being viable, the termination of the contract of the Doctors which decided to go to USA and poor building conditions. The best was done to accommodate all patients and a great job was done considering.

Dr David Roufael has been unable to practice outside the Deloraine Medical Centre due to some of the Doctors requiring supervision. In December 2009, the mentioned Deloraine

Doctors recently passed required medical exams which has freed Dr Roufael from the Centre.

The decision was made to open the Meander Medical Centre for our patients which resided in Westbury and surrounding areas. We had been looking at suitable property for 12 months or so.

Since the closure of Westbury Medical Centre, a large proportion of their patients have felt very bitter and unhappy, feeling that we closed the surgery due to greed and not caring for their welfare. Very many untasteful comments have been made in regard to Dr Roufael and his Surgery which has upset us all very much, even as much as talk that the surgery will be burnt down.

The Westbury Surgery at Meander Valley Highway will be reopened in February 2010 under a new ownership and we know that many patients which have come to us will be relocating to them. We are happy to provide medical services to these people in the interim when they will decide which Surgery to attend.

All I ask is that people know the real reason for the closure at Westbury and the people who have unsavoury comments to make in regard to our Doctors and Practice vote with their feet.

Consideration should be given to Dr Roufael for his generous support of the people in the Meander Valley during a time of severe doctor shortage in Launceston. After hours services will be offered only to patients of Meander Valley Medical / Deloraine Medical Centre with the privilege of admittance to the Deloraine Hospital and local Nursing Homes.

Greedy Doctors do not bulk bill.

14.1.10