

If a patient has a chronic medical condition such as diabetes, asthma, COPD, heart disease but is otherwise stable, "Alice Specialised Medicine" would still be a suitable resource. Dr Mitchell and Susie will still proactively promote the "Diabetes clinic", and "At risk of Diabetes visits" and for the next 2 months we are trialing a similar style "Asthma clinic" that will be fully funded with Medicare.

Also if a patient is on regular medication eg. The pill, or wants to continue to see Dr Mitchell for routine pap smears or a second opinion, they will not be blocked, but the new appointment time slot will always be 30 minutes.

With more time available to dedicate to the three branches though, the ultimately plan is that the "Alice Springs Skin Cancer Clinic" will expand, and "Alice Diabetes Education" will start getting referrals to Susie as a private diabetic educator from other GP clinics, and "Alice Travel Medicine" will be promoted as the most up to date resource for safe travel advice not just vaccinations. We have been linked with Travel Medicine Alliance for the last 7 yrs and Dr Mitchell will plan to sit the International Travel examination in the next 12 months.


We truly believe that the new services ASM will be able to provide in the upcoming years will serve the community of Alice Springs and Central Australia well. But it is also being done to better the work/life balance of our family as our son starts transition next year in 2016 and there is a want to spend more time with him, away from him being in Consulting room 3!!!

ASFMC Management is currently holding talks with the Alice Springs Hospital with regards to how to try and predict the issues that might arise with transfer of notes and duty of care. We will keep our patient population abreast of any new recommendations but would anticipate linking yourself with a new mainstream clinic—choices being Central Clinic, Mall Medical and Bath St Family Medical Clinic. This in no way means that you cannot access Dr Mitchell or Susie our practice nurse, but it will be very different access options compared to before. This will be no issue for a lot of patients and they will continue to see us as their main provider, yet others might decide to fully transfer their files to another clinic and we totally appreciate this choice.

As it stands now, numerous patients and their families have either left town, or our planning to leave town, or have already started seeing another clinic in Alice Springs due to our limited on the day capacity which has always been a problem. But once the locums leave at the end of November our reception staff will be applying the new guidelines for all bookings and we appreciate your understanding in the meantime.

Dr Mitchell and Susie have greatly enjoyed their time setting up ASFMC and being the main health care provider to many families and patients in the Central Australian region. It has been an honour to have patients actively seek us out. However we now hope those same patients will understand this very hard decision we have made and support us in our new venture.

Please stay tuned as more details come to light.



**ALICE SPECIALISED
MEDICINE**


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WHAT'S NEW?

ASFMC wishes to inform our patients that from the end of 2015 our clinic in it's current format will cease to exist. This is a difficult decision that we have thought about for at least the last 2 years as our son Joshua basically continues to grow up, it feels at times, without us!!

With only Dr Mitchell as the consistent GP since we opened our doors over 9 years ago, and a lack of consistent, appropriately skilled available GPs ASFMC has struggled to maintain the high level of care we strive to provide to our 3000 active patients.

So it is with sadness that we must announce the ending of ASFMC at the end of 2015. We understand that there will be some confusion initially regarding what our new clinic can provide service wise, and what will just be impossible. Dr Mitchell has always been booked out 1–2 weeks in advance, and has always struggled with the demand for “on-the-day” appointments. We also inherit a lot of follow up from Emergency Department presentations eg removal of sutures in 5 days, or follow up the urine infection 2 days later. Without extra GPs one doctor can only see a maximum of 30 patients in a day—and when stretched to 40+ it is usually to the detriment of our one doctor!!

We cannot be compared to the other mainstream general practice clinics in Alice Springs anymore—they have a workforce of up to 10 part-time GPs compared to one.

So for the standard—medical certificates, or cold and flu, on-the-day appointments and updating routine prescriptions and pathology ‘Alice Specialised Medicine’ will not be the correct resource for this.

Dr Mitchell's standard appointments as of October will always be 30 min minimum. Over the last 9 years more than half of what she has done has fallen into a subspecialised field of medicine previously so we are just going to continue that theme.

Her postgraduate training includes skin cancer, women's health and obstetrics and gynaecology, in particular fertility, mental health including focused psychological strategies, musculoskeletal medicine and sports medicine.

For the month of October and November we have senior experienced female GP locums to assist with the transition but from 30/11/15 Dr Mitchell will remain on her own. There is potential to recruit specialised part-time GPs with a similar interest in the subspecialties in the future, but initially it will be all built around Dr Mitchell And Susie our practice nurse who is nearly fully ratified as a private diabetic educator.

So it is with excitement that we also wish to communicate the new directions we are choosing to pour our expertise into.

This has been a difficult decision to ultimately make, but now we wish to move ahead and transition into our new venture, so by the week prior to Xmas , Alice Springs Family Medical Centre ceases to exist in it's current format.

ALICE SPRINGS SKIN CANCER CLINIC

ALICE TRAVEL MEDICINE

ALICE DIABETES EDUCATION

Will be the 3 new trading names under the banner

ALICE SPECIALISED MEDICINE

Our signs out the front will be changing once we have finalised our new logos, uniforms will change, website and advertising will all be linked to these new entities.

Like in 2014 when we decided as a company to stop seeing Workers Compensation clients, we will also stop seeing MACA clients. We only have a handful of these but will be directing patients to proactively choose a different GP clinic in town. As of Jan 2016 no MACA appointments will be booked.

We have over 15000 patient files but ASFMC management feels like our active population is probably closer to 3000. That is still a lot of people to inform about this decision and we will endeavour to make the transition as smooth as possible.

From now until the end of the financial year 30/06/16 ASFMC will waive the usual admin fee we would charge to release files to other clinics in town. Once we have been informed which clinic a family or individual is choosing to be their new GP, we will import their medical file onto a disc for the new practitioner to access. If there is minimal records to transfer we will inform the new clinic.