

**TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER AND
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of residents in and around the electorate of Shortland draws to the attention of the House:

- the decision by the Federal Government to close the co-located Medicare and Centrelink office in Belmont, NSW, and the hardship it will cause to local seniors and families.

The Belmont Medicare / Centrelink office is a vital public service for the local area. Shortland electorate has one of the highest numbers of seniors and pensioners compared to other electorates.

Older people do not always have internet access, are unable to wait on the phone for long periods and are unable to drive far due to their restricted driving licences. The removal of this Medicare office will therefore cause hardship to older residents and families.

We therefore ask the House to: take urgent action to do everything in its power to reverse the decision to close the Medicare / Centrelink office in Belmont, NSW, and ensure it remains open and accessible to those who need it.

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