



## Dr Murray Donald Govan

3 May 2019

The NSW Medical Council has suspended the registration of Coffs Harbour GP, Dr Murray Donald Govan, effective from 1 May 2019. Dr Govan has been charged with criminal offences.

In doing so, the Council made no finding of guilt on the part of Dr Govan. This is a matter for the courts.

The Council has taken this action in order to protect the health and safety of the public and to maintain confidence in the medical profession.

As required by law, the Council has advised the suspension to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) for recording on the public register. The Council has also referred the practitioner to the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC).

The Council will not be making any further comment on Dr Govan at this time.

### Background

The Medical Council regulates medical practitioners in NSW with the objective of maintaining public safety and confidence in the medical profession.

Under section 150 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW), the Council has power to suspend or impose restrictions on a practitioner's registration as an immediate action pending full investigation and determination of any matters to be prosecuted before the courts.

Proceedings under s150 are not public, nor may the reasons for decision be published.

The Medical Council does not have the legal power to deregister a practitioner. Only the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal can cancel a NSW medical practitioner's registration.

Changes to the practitioner's registration status, such as the imposition of conditions or suspension, are published on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency public register at <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/registration/registers-of-practitioners.aspx>

**Please attribute to a spokesperson for the Medical Council of NSW.**