

December 23, 2011

Check you have sufficient medical supplies this wet season: Mayor

Residents who rely on prescription medication and fear they may become isolated from obtaining essential pharmaceuticals this cyclone season are being advised to consult with their doctor to ensure they have adequate supplies.

Mayor Gail Sellers said the experiences of flooding in late December 2010 and January 2011 suggested that some residents who relied on medication were left in a vulnerable and sometimes life-threatening situations because they did not have sufficient medication to see them through the prolonged period of flooding.

She said the *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 1960* allows a medical practitioner to authorise additional medication to be supplied to people if they are satisfied that the person requires it due to the nature of their illness; the remoteness of their place of residence from a pharmacy; and there are extenuating circumstances that make it difficult for people to obtain medication on separate occasions.

"These provisions are very specific for reasons such as the risks of consuming out-of-date medications and forwarding prescriptions, so please consult with your medical practitioner about your situation and he or she will be able to best advise on whether you are eligible for such consideration," Cr Sellers said.

The Mayor said it was also timely to remind people with mobility issues or those who relied on electricity for medical treatment to consider what they will do in an emergency situation as emergency services personnel cannot access some locations during natural disaster events.

"We've all seen how devastating natural disasters can be from the events of earlier this year, so please spend the time to ensure you are prepared this cyclone season," she said.

She suggested people view the Emergency Management Queensland website <http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/> and follow the 'Be Prepared' drop down link to get tips and advice on getting prepared.

MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Community Relations Section on 4976 6911.