**Long travel times a thing of the past as local skin clinics move from strength to strength – right here in Forbes.**

Patients will no longer have to travel long distances to larger regional centres to access specialists who are trained in the management of complex skin procedures.

The Forbes Medical Centre is offering this service with visiting medical practitioner Dr Stephen Hayes. Dr Hayes sees patients at the practice once a month from Orange and provides another level of service to complement the FMC’s doctor’s skin check clinics which are conducted by Dr Somes and Dr Hemant weekly.

Dr Hayes is a general surgeon who has been practising in rural NSW for the past 28 years, Dr Hayes performs the complex excisions and procedures referred to him following skin checks conducted at the FMC – making it a one stop shop.

“Dr Hayes is a highly experienced surgeon with many years’ experience in treating skin cancers,” FMC Practice Manager Beverlie Gardiner says.  “He is able to perform complex excisions including skin grafts which means patients do not always have to go to Hospital for these procedures and can minimise the patient’s recovery time.”

Practice Manager Beverlie Gardener also says this services enables patients to have timely access to a specialist service without the travel.

“Dr Hayes visits enables patients to have timely access to this specialist service so they do not have to worry about waiting a long time to have their skin cancers attended to, “ Ms Gardiner says. “This eliminates the need for people living in rural communities to travel long distances for medical services which is a huge benefit to the community.”

It’s also an added bonus particularly the elderly who may not have access to suitable transport to take them to larger centres.

“Especially for those who cannot drive themselves to major centres such as Orange as well as for people who do not have family members available to assist with their travel as it can be it can be very difficult to organise suitable transport, “Ms Gardiner says. “Plus Patients can also return to our practice after their procedure to have their stitches removed and wounds cared for.”