

12 February 2018



To my patients

“When will you retire?”

I would like to let you know personally that the time has come for me to answer the question “when will you retire?” Originally this was a question from the patients to whom I am responsible, like yourself, but increasingly it has come from my family as well.

I started in General Practice in Northcross in 1980, where the pharmacy now stands, and before the road outside was tar sealed! Since then I have worked closely with our Royal College of General Practitioners on a Quality Improvement journey which culminated in the design and implementation of the Cornerstone Programme for the development and maintenance of high quality professional facilities. High quality facilities are essential for safe and effective delivery of professional skills. Apollo has been Cornerstone Accredited for over 10 years now as evidenced by the certification on our walls, and it is also 10 years since I joined Apollo. I am proud to be working amongst highly qualified and competent professionals and supporting staff in these facilities, and of my own contribution to our services and their development.

However the time has come for me to transition into putting my energies back into my own family, and hence 2018 is my year to retire. In the same way as I transition “home”, I wish to assist you to transition to a doctor who can best suit your requirements. My personal plan starts with a long holiday to spend time with my 92 year old father in England. **My last formal day as your official GP in Apollo, and thus my official retirement day, will be Friday 20 April.**

Prior to 20 April 2018 I am happy to advise you, during any consults, on which doctor I think might be the best fit for you for the future. You are also welcome to choose your new doctor from the profiles on our website [www.apollomedical.co.nz](http://www.apollomedical.co.nz) all of whom have outstanding training and who have worked well with us before being invited to join our team.

Following my trip to England, on my return at the end of May, I will continue to do sessional work in Apollo, but only through appointments for the same day as the request (also known as ‘book on day appointments’), through to the end of the year depending on clinic needs. This will enable me to support our busy winter season and also be available to you and my colleagues to update them on any complex past or current health status issues you may have. Whoever you choose to have as your next GP, I will do all I can to enable a smooth and successful transfer. I believe Apollo is well placed to continue to support you, and I thank you sincerely for the support you have shown me and the trust that you have put in my competencies and advice.

It is a privilege to be invited into people's lives as their doctor. I will greatly miss this unwritten standing invitation. Thank you for sharing your own journeys with me. I wish you well.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John W.', with a large circular flourish on the left and a horizontal stroke on the right.

Dr John Wellingham