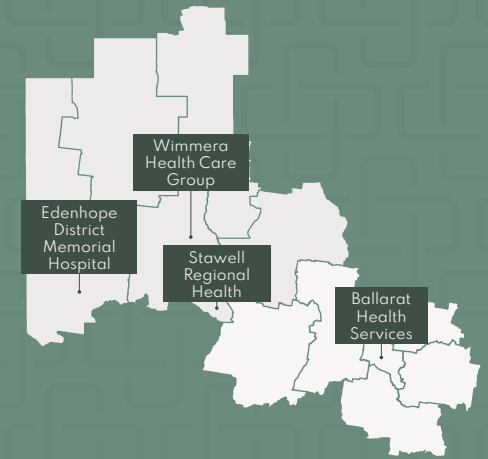


# Care For Our Region

Healthier, stronger, together

## Potential Community Benefits

Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital, Stawell Regional Health, Wimmera Health Care Group and Ballarat Health Services have endorsed a proposal to come together to deliver better healthcare for our communities. This fact sheet outlines the benefits of the proposed voluntary amalgamation. The proposal is being considered by the Secretary of the Department of Health.



Benefit	Measures	Outcome
<b>1. Increasing local community access to services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater local use of hospital services in Horsham, Edenhope, and Stawell</li> <li>Increased access to aged and home care services for the Edenhope community</li> <li>Alleviate growing service demand at Ballarat by sharing skills and resources, delivering care closer to home</li> </ul>	<b>Enhanced local services and care closer to home</b>
<b>2. Building the strength and capacity of each health service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong processes for clinical practice, including an effective Consumer Representative Committee</li> <li>Enhanced quality and clinical governance oversight of healthcare for the communities of Edenhope, Stawell, Horsham and Ballarat</li> <li>Edenhope home care and aged care to meet current and future needs</li> <li>Best practice administrative systems, simpler and more effective processes, and closer collaboration across the region</li> </ul>	<b>Safer practices, quality services, better systems, closer to home</b>
<b>3. Opportunities for workforce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated workforce development and training, including a whole-of-organisation workforce plan</li> <li>Decreased reliance on temporary staff and locums, bringing more permanent staff to live and work in the region</li> <li>Increased remote access to clinical support</li> <li>Enhanced quality and safety practices with fewer temporary staff and locums and more continuity of care</li> <li>Sustainable medical workforce at Stawell with more on-site clinical staff as part of a wider organisation</li> </ul>	<b>Investing in professional development, increasing local capability and creating career opportunities for all staff</b>
<b>4. Delivering a more effective health system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better distribution of services and resources, underpinned by a whole-of-organisation clinical services plan</li> <li>Fewer patients needing to travel to Ballarat from Wimmera and Grampians, by delivering care closer to home</li> <li>Increased residential aged care access by effectively utilising services of all partners</li> <li>Enhanced self-sufficiency in the Wimmera and Grampians</li> </ul>	<b>Improve the breadth, accessibility, quality and sustainability of local health care</b>
<b>5. Community trust and engagement in local services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved patient experience of health care</li> <li>Strong engagement in the health service, establishing Community Advisory Committees for each local community</li> </ul>	<b>Being local will remain in our DNA</b>

## Your key questions

### 1. Is this a done deal because the Government is forcing this upon our health service?

No, the health services initiated this proposal voluntarily so they can deliver better health outcomes for our communities. The proposal is with the Department of Health for consideration.

### 2. Will there be loss of services in my area?

Definitely not. There will be no loss of services at any of the health care services. Our proposal is driven by a desire to improve the breadth, accessibility, quality and sustainability of local health care in the region.

### 3. Will I need to travel to Ballarat for treatment?

The proposed overarching entity can enable joined-up planning, to consider services currently delivered and working through any gaps. Our main objective is to deliver services closer to home, reducing the need for travel when clinically appropriate to do so.

### 4. What will the impact be on aged care?

Positive. The proposed overarching entity can increase capacity to provide high quality care in all services, enhancing access to aged care in Edenhope, Stawell and Horsham.

### 5. Will the new entity close community services, now or later?

There will be no loss of services at any of the health care services forming the new entity. Our goal is growth and to increase community services over time.

### 6. Will there be job losses?

This is about investing in people and supporting and growing our workforce. Should the proposal proceed, there is a commitment to explore how we can invest in careers, with no loss of staff conditions. The proposal can find ways to attract and sustain a larger workforce pools, especially for specialist clinical roles and reduce the reliance on temporary staff and locums. We want to invest in our people, supporting a strong medical and clinical workforce, as we grow in the future.

### 7. Will this mean I will be forced to travel outside my town for work?

The proposal means staff can have opportunities to work in their town if they choose or go elsewhere. The choice is up to them.

### 8. Will my community lose local representation and control over our future?

Should the proposal be approved, local input will be important. It is proposed that there be at least one board member from each current health service appointed to the new board.

### 9. Will this have a negative impact on our local economy?

We anticipate a positive impact. The proposal will allow us to invest in local services and career opportunities in the community. Less people travelling unnecessarily for treatment will mean more people staying in towns, which will offer a direct benefit to the local economy.

### 10. Will local volunteering still be available and will fundraising stay local?

Yes. The proposed new entity ensures local fundraising for each health services can go directly to that local health service. Volunteers can be recruited and work locally, just like they do now.