

MEDIA RELEASE

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Vulnerable and diverse community groups to be addressed by new health service

Vulnerable and diverse community groups across the Grampians can have greater access to more inclusive and safe care should the proposal for Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital, Stawell Regional Health, Wimmera Health Care Group and Ballarat Health Services to come together be approved.

The four health services have committed to a joint Diversity, Inclusion and Equity plan, putting services and programs in place to address the specific needs of diverse and vulnerable groups including family violence survivors, people experiencing homelessness, LGBTQI+ and CALD community members.

Should the Minister approve the proposal, Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital, Stawell Regional Health and Wimmera Health Care group will have the ability to further enhance, expand on and develop inclusive services by combining collective knowledge, experiences and resources in the space to better meet the needs of their communities.

Through shared resources and collaboration, the health services can bring about better access to care for vulnerable community groups, sooner and deliver better health outcomes.

If the proposal for the health services to come together is approved, a shared Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan will be put in place and implemented across the four health services in the Grampians region.

Following approval, other opportunities for improved care and a range of enhanced services will be finalised in the service planning process.

Quotes attributable to the health service CEOs

Andrew Saunders, CEO of Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital

"At Edenhope we are keen to enhance support and care for our most vulnerable community members."

"By joining together, we can have greater access to knowledge to develop a shared understanding and implement programs that effectively address the community's needs."

Kate Pryde, CEO of Stawell Regional Health

"One of the reasons we embarked on this process was to improve access to services and care in Stawell overall. Through this, we will have increased ability to look after our community's most vulnerable."

"Together, with shared resources and skills, we can achieve more. A joint Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan will ensure we are addressing all of our community's needs in a consistent, safe and inclusive manner across the Grampians region."

Catherine Morley, CEO of Wimmera Health Care Group

“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted to us the importance of prioritising and providing care for our diverse and vulnerable community members. Their health needs are important, and today’s announcement showcases our commitment to this.”

“Our joint Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan is just one way in which can deliver improved health care in the Grampians.”

Dale Fraser, CEO of Ballarat Health Services

“Our commitment today to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion can have a significant impact to the care we can deliver to our most vulnerable communities, right across the Grampians region.”

“We currently have a range of inclusive programs set up including Strengthening Hospitals Response to Family Violence and our regional disability work. We’re looking forward to expanding them to the other health services and sharing our knowledge and understanding of the space.”

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