



FACT SHEET
28 September 2021

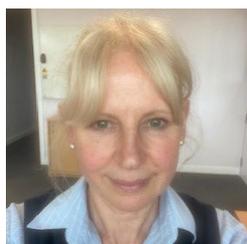
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED – AGED CARE

Each fortnight, Care For Our Region addresses key questions raised by local communities. This fortnight, our aged care leaders from each health service spoke about the challenges aged care providers face in the region, and the opportunities the new health service for the Grampians can provide.

SOME OF OUR AGED CARE LEADERS



Debbie McLeish
Nurse Unit Manager
Edenhope & District Memorial Hospital



Sue Campigli
Clinical Operations Manager
Stawell Regional Health



Tina Joseph
Nurse Manager
Macpherson Smith Residential Care
Stawell Regional Health



Sarah Kleinitz
Director of Primary and Aged Services
Wimmera Health Care Group



Jodie Cranham
Executive Director, Aged Care
Ballarat Health Services

WHAT ARE THE KEY CHALLENGES IN AGED CARE AND HOW CAN WE SEEK TO ADDRESS THEM?

Clinical Governance

"There are so many legislative changes and requirements that coming up with different policies and procedures, and then educating the team about these changes, is a constant process. What I'm excited to do is pull together a greater workforce so we can work on these collaboratively and have a uniform approach across aged care in the way we're educating and providing care," Sarah said.

"With the right structure, the four organisations will not be working alone in how to achieve compliance individually. Multiple people will be synthesising information around compliance and standards. We'll all still need to read and understand it, but we'll have someone assigned to that key role and ensure it happens systematically across the four health services," Jodie said.

"There's potential to have a different way of how we currently manage aged care for the region. Stawell's aged care, for instance, is currently managed by the Director of Clinical services. By coming together, we can have access to managers and leaders who have specific experience in aged care," Sue said.

Staff

"I hope we can look at succession planning. At the moment in aged care, it is a challenge to get strong passionate nurses to come and work at our aged care facilities. I hope a larger health service with more support systems will allow the team to have more opportunities and areas for growth to encourage people to apply and encourage people to stay," – Sarah

"I'll be retiring this week after 38 years working at Edenhope. I'm hoping the new health service can attract trained staff. I would hope that our nice big aged care facility in rural Victoria would attract a manager with compassion and empathy to come and work rurally," Debbie said.

"It's known there are staffing issues in the region. A larger health service will mean staff can rotate in different areas to learn new skills. There would also be access to expert staff, increased student placements and more management opportunities. Everyone can have the opportunity to rotate through the health services, if they want to," Tina said.

Funding

"At Wimmera Health Care Group, we recognise the need to update our aged care facility to provide a better experience for residents and working environment for staff.
. By coming together, we will have a stronger voice at the table down in Melbourne to advocate our need for new infrastructure," Sarah said

"The resources to enable more funding would be improved. We can also pull knowledge and resources from the other health services in how they do this – we can work together. It's great too, any funding or donations that come to Stawell will stay in Stawell," Sue said.

Resources

“A larger organisation brings together a diverse knowledge base – together we will have more skills and experience. It will be great to share and learn from each other to enhance education of our staff and make aged care an exciting place to work,” Debbie said.

“We’ll be able to have greater access to direct resources and specialists. Currently the wait time to see a geriatrician is one to two months. Through telehealth we can access specialists and doctors we wouldn’t have been able to before. If there’s a COVID-19 outbreak in aged care, we’ll be able to pull resources from the larger organisation,” Tina said.

“Individually each health service already has their own COVID-19 outbreak plans, this would be an opportunity for aged care to have a framework and consistency around the plan. It’s about the overarching ability to pull resources and expertise around ensuring we are providing a person-centred safe environment for our residents,” Jodie said.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE?

“I hope the entire community embraces this proposed new entity, so that for these small rural areas we can maintain our own self-identity and continue to provide care to the community. The partnership should ensure that our community will have high quality care, locally,” Debbie said.

“Each individual organisation has resources from different areas in which they excel. Ballarat is strong from a resource aspect, Edenhope and Stawell are strong in their community aspect, Wimmera is strong with our passion and drive in implementing a person-centred model of care. To bring that together is going to be amazing,” Sarah said.

“The ability to access knowledge and the pooling of organisational resources will allow us to continue to enhance our learning and knowledge development and provide better care closer to home,” Tina said.

“As much as BHS is the biggest, we’re not necessarily the only experts in aged care. There’s a lot of knowledge around good residential, person centred care and I think pulling knowledge together will be beneficial for all parties. We can’t assume that we’ve got all the answers. Let’s share our strengths and build,” Jodie said.

“We want to be able to provide our older community members the best quality of care. A coordinated approach to standardise patient-centred care in aged care facilities around the region would be incredible, both for staff and for our residents,” Sue said.

The Boards of Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital, Stawell Regional Health, Wimmera Health Care Group and Ballarat Health Services believe they will be healthier, stronger, together.

For more information or to have your say visit [careforourregion.com.au](https://www.careforourregion.com.au)