

Care For Our Region

Healthier, stronger, together

Introduction

Welcome to the fourth Care For Our Region update. In this issue:

- We announce our commitment to a joint Diversity, Inclusion and Equity plan
- We talk to Sue Roberts, After Hours Coordinator and Clinical Training Coordinator at Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital about the opportunities for education in the region
- The leaders of aged care in the Grampians region discuss key challenges in aged care
- And we encourage you to reach out to us with your questions and concerns

In our next issue, we'll look at the community structures and representation in a new health service for the Grampians.

Prioritising Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

Vulnerable and diverse community groups across the Grampians can have greater access to more inclusive and safe care should the proposal for a new Grampians health service 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.

This will provide us with the ability to further enhance, expand on and develop inclusive services by combining collective knowledge, experiences and resources to better meet the needs of our communities.

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

For more information see full media release [here](#).

Staff Spotlight



Sue Roberts – Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital After Hours Coordinator and Clinical Training Coordinator

Sue has been working at Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital for nearly twenty years, working her way up the ranks to her current position of After-Hours Coordination and Clinical Training Coordinator.

She devotes two days per week to her Clinical Training role where she works closely with Wimmera Health Care Group to implement and develop training programs. Sue is passionate about the idea of coming together.

“A single health service offers infinite possibilities – it’s very exciting. As part of the Grampians Regional Educator Group, I’ve seen the amazing amount of knowledge, experience and skills that are in the region that we can tap into,” Sue said.

“For some of the smaller health services like Edenhope, we have limited staff numbers, but we still must ensure clinical governance, so everybody wears a lot of different hats. If we tapped into a wider health service, that would take the pressure off and we would be able to put more time and effort into education and training.

“Currently, I create learning packages and education sessions, which the other health services could create as well. By coming together, instead of us all doing our own thing, we can standardise it and utilise everybody’s different skills. A single health service would be fantastic and free up our time to offer more development opportunities.

“Improved education will ensure we’re providing best practice of care and in turn empower our workforce and staff. Staff satisfaction would improve which will help staff retention. As a small Urgent Care Centre, you don’t know what’s going to come in the door. Your skills and knowledge must be quite varied, and our staff are fantastic at keeping up their knowledge and skills, but you always need to be preparing for a case you might not have seen before. Education can help us prepare,” Sue said.

Your Questions Answered – Enhanced Aged Care

This fortnight, we spoke to aged care leaders across the Grampians to discuss how coming together can help solve key challenges.

What are the challenges?



Compliance

“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 Cranham, Ballarat Health Services Executive Director, Aged Care

Staff

“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 Joseph, Stawell Regional Health Nurse Manager - Macpherson Smith Residential Care



Funding

“The resources to enable 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 Campigli, Stawell Regional Health Clinical Operations Manager

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 and exciting place to work." – Debbie McLeish, Edenhope & District Memorial Hospital Nurse Unit Manager



What are your hopes for the future?



"Each individual organisation has resources for different areas in which they excel. Ballarat is strong in 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 Kleinitz, Wimmera Health Care Group Director of Primary and Aged Services

For more information on these opportunities see the full fact sheet [here](#).

Talk to us

We want to hear from you – our community – so we can bring services to the area that meet the health needs of individuals and families in the region.

We'll work closely with patients, residents, staff and groups in each local community to develop this exciting and much needed plan for the future, while retaining local ownership and identity.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please email info@carefourregion.com.au or visit www.carefourregion.com.au/have-your-say