

# Care For Our Region

Healthier, stronger, together

## Introduction

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

- We invite you to join us in reflecting on the past year of our health services
- We talk to Craig Wilding, Ballarat Health Services Executive Director of Primary and Community Care about the possibilities of a new Grampians health service
- We look at how the community would be represented in the new health service
- And we answer frequently asked questions from the community

In our next issue, we'll answer key questions around implementation, should the new Grampians health service be approved.

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## 2021 Reflection

All four health services will be pausing in October to reflect on the past year.

We would love for our community and staff to join us online as we look at our successes and achievements. These sessions provide the opportunity for people from across the health services to learn more about each other.

Please see information below on the upcoming sessions.

### **Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital**

Date: Friday 22 October

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Virtual – Please send your expression of interest to attend to

[jessieh@edmh.org.au](mailto:jessieh@edmh.org.au) or call 03 5585 9806

### **Ballarat Health Services**

Date: Wednesday 27 October

Time: 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Location: Join via livestream from the [Ballarat Health Services Facebook](#) page

### **Wimmera Health Care Group**

Date: Thursday 28 October

Time: 10:30am – 11:30am

Location: Virtual – Please send your expression of interest to attend to [ceo@whcg.org.au](mailto:ceo@whcg.org.au)

### **Stawell Regional Health**

Date: Thursday 28 October

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Virtual – Please send your expression of interest to attend to [executiveassistant@srh.org.au](mailto:executiveassistant@srh.org.au)

We look forward to reflecting on our past and discussing our shared future with you.

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## **Staff Spotlight**



### **CRAIG WILDING – BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY CARE**

As Ballarat Health Services Executive Director of Primary and Community Care, Craig Wilding sees a range of areas in which staff can have increased opportunities through a larger service.

“In terms of increased education through partnership, we currently have a dental graduate who is based in Wimmera and comes to Ballarat Health services for training and receives telehealth peer support from us to complete her training. When she finishes her training, she will be able to continue working in Horsham. The aim is to have a student program that rotates from Ballarat up to Horsham, improving the services in regional communities,” Mr Wilding said.

“Once you start getting students that know and like the area, they will want to stay on. We’re also unique in what we do in terms of training at Ballarat, we provide dental assistants to support students, whereas in Melbourne and other regional clinics it’s the students helping the student. We offer them more responsibility which helps them learn.

"We've previously had arrangements with allied health and community programs to improve services across the Grampians region. The whole idea is to invest in joint recruitment opportunities for Horsham, to offer a position that is longer term and can rotate through both services.

"We have a really good foundation for progressing things forward and offering these programs to Stawell, Horsham and Edenhope. Having conversations and being closer as a team allows improvements to actually happen," Mr Wilding said.

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## Your Questions Answered – Community Representation and Structures

This fortnight, we outline how communities in Horsham, Edenhope, Stawell and Ballarat will be represented in the new Grampians health service.

Should the proposal be approved, place names will remain unchanged, there will be local representation on the new board and through local advisory committees, and local fundraising will go directly to local health services.

### **How will the board be appointed?**

Consistent with the requirements of public health services under the Health Services Act 1988 (the Act) board membership will include a maximum of nine individuals, appointed by the Minister for Health.

In our proposal to the Department of Health and the Health Minister, we recommended boards:

- Include representation for all participating health services (Edenhope, Stawell, Horsham and Ballarat)
- Recognise 'knowledge of local communities' and 'rural health experience' as key skills considered important for board membership

### **How will the board be structured?**

The board of the new health service would establish committees in line with the requirements of the Act, including:

- Audit, Finance and Quality and Safety Committees
- Community Advisory Committees
- Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Committees

An 'Integration Committee' will also be established to oversee the transition to the new Grampians health service.

## How can I get involved?

The new Board of Directors will determine the constitution of the Community Advisory Committee, with an emphasis on local community voice. Immediately following approval of the new Grampians health service, we will begin to recruit the Community Advisory Committee. If you are interested in joining the Committee, we encourage you to subscribe to the Care for our Region newsletter to receive regular updates on the process and to be notified about nominations opening by visiting [carefourregion.com.au/subscribe](https://www.carefourregion.com.au/subscribe)

For more information on community representation and structures see the full fact sheet [here](#).

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## Frequently Asked Questions

We're listening to your feedback. Please see below answers to your questions. Remember, if you have questions, email us at [info@carefourregion.com.au](mailto:info@carefourregion.com.au)

### **Why have you chosen to amalgamate rather than build a stronger partnership?**

We have chosen to formally come together as a new health service ahead of other contractual arrangements to ensure we all take full responsibility for each other.

Each of the health services individual problems will be fully owned by all four health services to solve, not just for the life of a contract and not just while it suits the various parties to participate, but for the long term.

Being part of a bigger organisation brings more resources and more options for the delivery of great care for the future.

### **Should the Minister give approval for the health services to come together, what happens next?**

Following the Minister's approval of a new Grampians health service, a board would be appointed by the Minister of Health. An implementation plan will be established to coordinate care for the region, and we will embark on the strategic planning process.

If you have any additional questions, comments or concerns please email [info@carefourregion.com.au](mailto:info@carefourregion.com.au) or visit [www.carefourregion.com.au/have-your-say](https://www.carefourregion.com.au/have-your-say)