

# Care For Our Region

Healthier, stronger, together

## Introduction

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

Today is an important day for healthcare in the Grampians. The Minister of Health has approved the proposal for Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital, Stawell Regional Health, Wimmera Health Care Group and Ballarat Health Services to come together under the new entity of Grampians Health.

It is an exciting step forward and will enable the provision of safe, connected and people-centred healthcare, closer to home. There will be significant opportunities for sharing resources and working together, creating career pathways while providing more services locally and reducing the need for patients to travel.

This new service will enable us to deliver better care for our region and follows years of strong collaboration and close partnerships between the four health services.

In this issue:

- We hear from our new Grampians Health Chair
- We explain the new executive structure for Grampians Health
- We look at what day one of Grampians Health will look like
- We introduce you to the implementation project team
- We encourage you to have your say and get involved

# Introducing Bill Brown



Hello everybody,

I am honoured to have been selected as chair for Grampians Health.

I am excited to join the new board consisting of directors with plenty of local experience and knowledge, who along with our executive team will work with our communities and stakeholders to deliver first rate health services in a safe and quality way.

I'm a proud regional Victorian, having grown up on a dairy farm in the Otways and I currently live in Warrnambool in the south west of the State. I am passionate about working to ensure rural communities receive safe, quality healthcare, equal to those in metropolitan areas.

That's why Grampians Health is so exciting, as it has the scale, breadth and focus to advance community health and wellbeing for the long term.

The immediate focus will be to ensure high quality care in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and to support our dedicated staff. We will also follow through on the clear commitments that have been made to staff and residents in Edenhope, Stawell, Horsham and Dimboola, and Ballarat.

We'll commence the service planning process in the new year, defining a shared vision and setting out the long-term direction for the future. We'll map out how to best configure services and identify key health priorities to best meet the needs for the communities covered by Grampians Health, as well as capital investment for infrastructure at Horsham and Dimboola, Edenhope, Stawell and Ballarat.

It's a new chapter for healthcare across the Grampians. I'll do everything I can to support staff, patients, stakeholders and communities to deliver better health for the Grampians.

Kind regards,  
Bill Brown  
Chair of Grampians Health

# Introducing the Grampians Health Executive Team

The new Grampians Health service executive leadership team will see a combination of old and new faces.

From Monday 1 November, Bill Brown will take on the role as Chair with Dale Fraser as the Interim Chief Executive Officer for Grampians Health.

The CEOs of Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital, Stawell Regional Health and Wimmera Health Care Group will be the executive leads at each local service.



## Chair

**Bill Brown**  
Grampians Health

## Board Directors

**Nicholas Jones**  
Wimmera Health Care Group

**David Anderson**  
Ballarat Health Services

**Meghraj Thakkar**  
Stawell Regional Health

**Avril Hogan**  
Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital

**Anthony Schache**  
Wimmera Health Care Group

**Cora Trevarthen**  
Ballarat Health Services

**Heather Pickard**  
Ballarat Health Services

**Rhian Jones**  
Stawell Regional Health

**Marie Aitken**  
Wimmera Health Care Group



## Interim CEO

**Dale Fraser**  
Grampians Health



**Kate Pryde**  
Stawell Regional Health  
Lead Executive Officer



**Andrew Saunders**  
Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital  
Lead Executive Officer



**Catherine Morley**  
Wimmera Health Care Group  
Lead Executive Officer

# Next Steps

Monday 1 November will be the first official day of Grampians Health. On day one you will only see very minor changes.

Our first priority is, and will always be, to provide high quality health care to our communities. We'll ensure high quality care in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and support our dedicated staff.

We will operate with kindness, compassion and follow three principles from day one:

- As minimal change as possible to implement the new legal structure.
- Collaboration and engagement with our people across our sites for future planning and decision making.
- Where possible, we will take action for better outcomes quickly.

A transition team (profiled [here](#)) will work with local board members, the CEOs and staff, volunteers, patients and residents map out how the service will methodically come together.

There will be no significant changes to how each local service is run day-to-day, but over the coming months and into 2022 we will work together to formulate a new Strategic Plan and new Clinical Services Plan. This will define a shared vision and set out the long-term direction for the future.

In the coming months we will set up our Community Reference Groups for the Ballarat, Horsham and Dimboola, Edenhope and Stawell communities and Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Committees for the Wimmera and Central Highlands areas.

We encourage any person with a commitment to supporting strong, quality healthcare in their local community to apply.

**We've prepared a [fact sheet](#) outlining any changes from 1 November.**

Please email [info@careforourregion.com.au](mailto:info@careforourregion.com.au) to ask any questions. We look forward to keeping you informed and working with you to create a shared future.

# Implementation Team

The implementation of Grampians Health will be undertaken by a project team supporting an Implementation Committee comprising of local board members, CEOs and stakeholders.

The project team is led by a Project Director, with Project Leads covering Corporate Services, Clinical Services and People, Culture, Change and Engagement.

Their role involves bringing together the right knowledge and experience from across the four health services to collectively determine best practices and implement the project.



## **CLAIRE WOODS - Project Director**

The COVID flavour of her first two years at Ballarat Health Services were definitely not the challenge Claire Woods was expecting after six years at a metropolitan health service and a range of People and Culture roles in the government, community services and banking industries. Claire is passionate about fostering work environments that encourage having the conversations that matter and finding new ways to work together to solve challenges. She's also excited about the opportunity that we have to create a new proudly rural and regional health service that builds on the commitment, enthusiasm and expertise of the teams across the Grampians region.

## **CHRIS AYLEN - Joint Project Lead - Corporate Services**

Chris Aylen has been Commercial Business Manager at Ballarat Health Services for the past three years. As Business Manager he works with the management teams to develop budgets for the organisation and provides management reporting services and advice/input into business cases that are being developed. Chris's role as Project Lead - Corporate Services sees him looking after Corporate Services and Corporate Governance with Mark Knights and Peter Barton.





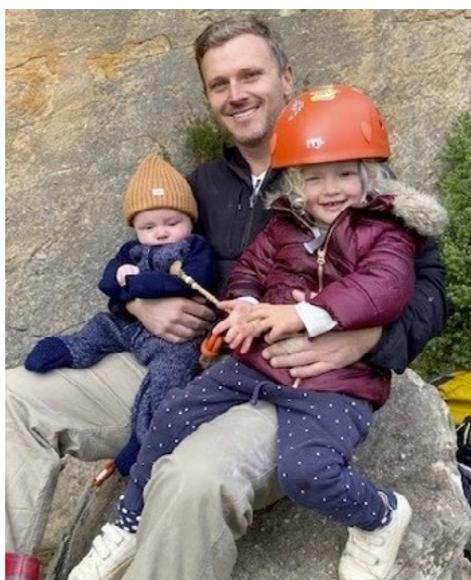
### **PETER BARTON - Joint Project Lead - Corporate Services**

Peter Barton is a recent newcomer to Ballarat Health Services, having taken up the position of Manager Contracts and Tendering in May 2021. Previous to that he was Chief Operating Officer with Bellarine Community Health, which involved extensive community engagement along with the numerous challenges of running a community health organisation. He also spent two years with Wimmera Health Care Group based out of Horsham in a Finance and Corporate capacity, and prior to that with Hepburn Health Service in Daylesford for 15 years as an Executive.

### **MARK KNIGHTS - Joint Project Lead - Corporate Services**

Mark has worked in the health industry for 20 years in Horsham, Ararat and Stawell and has developed a passion for improving health outcomes for the communities of the Wimmera and Southern Mallee. His areas of expertise include corporate governance, risk management and financial management.

His current role as Director of Finance and Corporate Services at Wimmera Health Care Group is focused on providing direction and leadership on financial policy and corporate governance, ensuring the CEO and Board of Directors have comprehensive information, analysis and timely advice on these areas.



### **RHYS DUNCAN - Project Lead - Client Services**

Rhys has been a member of the Stawell Regional Health Executive Team for the past five years, where as Director of Primary and Community Care he oversees allied health and community services, outpatients, oncology, and IT.

Rhys spent his early career working as a dietitian in Sydney and Hobart and moved to the Grampians in 2013 to follow his passion and to climb on the world class sandstone in the Grampians/Gariwerd National Park. The one-year adventure turned into a deep connection with the Grampians region, a passion for improving the health of rural communities, and a decision to pursue a career pathway in rural health.



### **JENNIE COURTNEY – Joint Project Lead – People, Culture, Change and Engagement**

Jennie Courtney has been Director of Community Engagement at Ballarat Health Services for the past four years. During this time, she has developed the fundraising, communications, volunteering and spiritual care functions under a comprehensive BHS community engagement strategy, along with serving as public information lead in the BHS COVID-19 incident response team. Jennie looks forward to bringing her skills and experience as a drama teacher, engagement facilitator, careers advisor, leadership coach and strategy consultant to the project.

### **ANGE TURLEY – Joint Project Lead – People, Culture, Change and Engagement**

Ange Turley has been the Director of Workforce at Ballarat Health Services for the past four years and has worked as part of the People and Culture team at BHS for 11 years. She also has a number of years' prior experience working in People and Culture in the rural health setting. Ange has been responsible for a wide range of people-related areas, including workforce planning, recruitment, employee and industrial relations and organisational development and has a keen interest in HR systems development/improvement and employment law. Over the past 18 months, she has been heavily involved in the pandemic response as part of the BHS COVID-19 incident response team.



To learn more about your Implementation team visit [Care For Our Region](#) or contact them by [emailing info@careforourregion.com.au](mailto:info@careforourregion.com.au)

# Have Your Say

Want to get involved? We want to hear from you, our community, as we shape the future of Grampians Health.

- If you have 5 minutes – submit a question or comment via [carefourregion.com.au/have-your-say/](https://carefourregion.com.au/have-your-say/)
- If you have an hour – share your feedback and thoughts on our new health service via [carefourregion.com.au/have-your-say/](https://carefourregion.com.au/have-your-say/)
- If you have half a day – attend a workshop on Clinical Services, Strategic Planning and Branding in the first half of 2022 – more information to come, register your interest by emailing [info@carefourregion.com.au](mailto:info@carefourregion.com.au)
- If you have a few hours a week – join a working group or reference group to help implement key changes – more information to come, register your interest by emailing [info@carefourregion.com.au](mailto:info@carefourregion.com.au)

If anyone has further questions about what will happen at a new Grampians health service, please email [info@carefourregion.com.au](mailto:info@carefourregion.com.au)