

A proposal to combine services

A proposal to join health services together is being explored to improve service delivery and access to care for local communities – close to home.

Our communities are responding to current challenges faced by regional and rural health services and want to build a stronger health system.

Consultation is taking place with staff and the community to gain feedback on the proposal before any final decision is made.

Nathalia District Hospital, Cobram District Health and Numurkah District Health Service will seek approval from the Minister for Health to combine their operations under one new management entity, pending the outcome of consultation.

What does this involve?

- Combining the three separate health services into **one entity**, streamlining how we operate while maintaining current services.
- **Combining our resources and expertise** across the three services to better meet the needs of the community as close to home as possible.
- Maintaining and **building on the range of health and clinical services** available now to deliver the best possible care locally.
- **Coordinating our aged care services** under a single management system across the region.

Will this impact jobs or services?

This decision will not impact the level of funding or budget for the health services. It is focused on providing consistent safe and quality clinical services locally.

Existing staff will all be part of the new entity.

We already work well together. As one entity, this will be even stronger.

Our existing locations will stay and will provide the same and/or better care (with no reduction in funding or staff due to this proposal) by **offering more consistent, safe and efficient services.**

Clinical services are the priority. Efficiencies from working smarter means we can improve health services for the community.

What are the benefits for local residents, patients, staff and their families?

Maintaining the standard of local services – Patients will be able to access a **broader range of health services locally**, by sharing the skills and expertise of medical, nursing and allied health staff and practitioners across the region.

Improving access to health services – Patients will have greater access to the services they need.

Sharing expertise – Working together, our skilled staff will be able to **share their knowledge** to improve the level of care. Opportunities for professional development and extended work options will be provided, helping to retain and attract staff.

Improving the range of services across different stages of life – combining our services will improve our ability to provide suitable care at different stages.

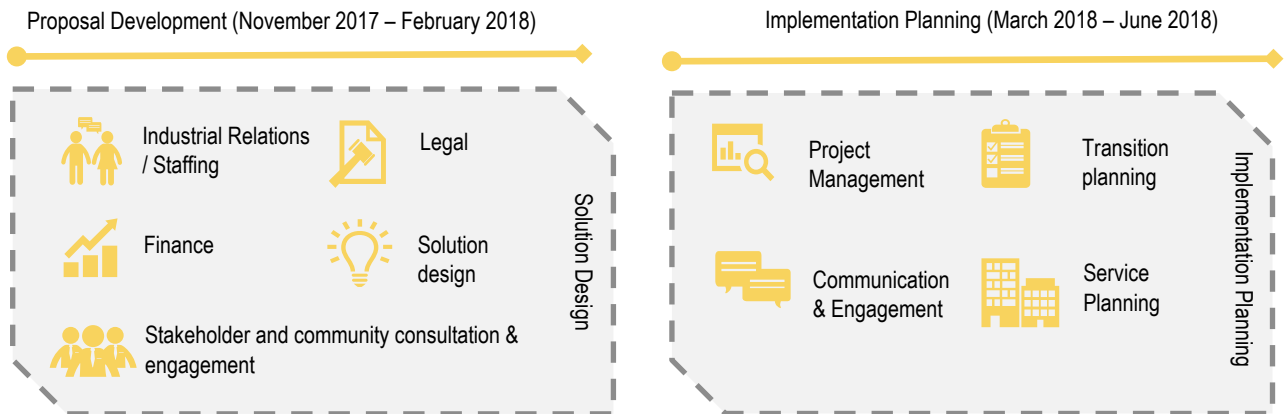


What will be the steps involved and how long will this process take?

Combining our health services will involve a number of steps over a number of months.

Understanding our legal, financial and employment obligations is really important for a successful outcome. This takes time and needs to be done properly.

A formal consultation, service design and planning process needs to be undertaken. The proposal needs the approval of the Minister for Health. It will be 'business as usual' while we go through the process. Indicative timeframes are:



Ways to be involved or to hear more during the process

The views and input of staff, stakeholders and the community are important. There be will chances for everybody to have input into how the new entity will look and operate. We will keep people informed as we move through the process (via website, email, mail, media and staff/community engagement sessions).



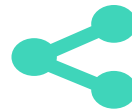
Staff Engagement

Staff will play an important role in this process. They will be invited to share their insights, feedback and expertise at various stages.



Stakeholder Feedback

It is important that we continue to inform and engage groups we partner and collaborate with in the health care system.



Community Feedback

The community will be at the centre of all our planning and will be invited to provide input. Consultation sessions will be held in early 2018.



Working with Government

We will work closely with all levels of government to build a strong health system for the region.



Contact your health service:

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