



Media Release

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PROPOSAL TO JOIN HEALTH SERVICES TO IMPROVE CARE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities could be the big winner from a proposal to combine the management operations of three local hospitals.

Nathalia District Hospital, Cobram District Health and Numurkah District Health Service today announced they are exploring a proposal to join health services together to improve service delivery and access to care for local communities.

Each of the hospitals would retain current services and facilities under the proposal, while working together would lead to enhanced care and treatment across the three communities.

The proposal provides the opportunity to improve the range of health programs that are provided between the three health services, strengthen partnerships and enhance the health care system for local people – close to home.

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

The health services will seek approval from Minister for Health Jill Hennessy to combine their operations under one new management entity, pending the outcome of consultation.

“Providing consistent, high quality, safe and accessible care to the community is our priority,” Numurkah CEO, Jacque Phillips said.

“The proposal seeks to join our services under one new management entity. Existing facilities will remain in place, in their current locations. Current services will be maintained and enhanced to improve access and deliver the best possible health care locally. There will be no reduction in services or funding in relation to this proposal.

“We are fortunate to already have excellent examples where the three health services have been working together over a long period of time, including Moira Palliative Care, Community Rehabilitation and Chronic Disease programs, plus shared education and training.

“Our staff are valued. There will be no reduction in staff as a result of this proposal. Existing staff will all be part of the new entity and remain in their existing place of employment.”

Cobram CEO, David Gullick said the proposal aims to combine resources and expertise across the three services to better meet the needs of the communities.

“This means better connected and consistent service delivery. Services will be enhanced to meet patient needs at different stages of life,” he said.

“Together we can build a stronger health system for local communities and respond to current challenges faced by regional health services.

“Staff opportunities for professional development and extended work options will help to retain and attract staff.”

Nathalia Board Chair Sue Logie said combining services will give patients access to a broader range of health services locally through sharing the skills and expertise of medical, nursing, allied health staff and practitioners across the region.

“Consultation is underway and will be ongoing over the coming months. We want to know what is important to staff and the community to inform how the new entity and its services will look and operate,” she said.

“We will keep people informed as we move through the process via website, email, mail, media and staff/community engagement sessions.”

For more information visit www.ncnhealthservices.org.au

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For further media information, please contact Communications Consultant, Beige Pureau on 0437 101 272.