

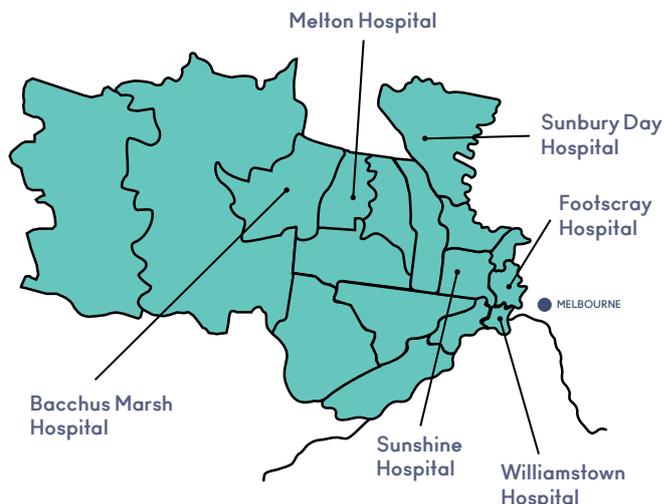
BETTER HEALTH FOR THE WEST

COMMUNITY UPDATE JUNE 2020



Western Health and Djerriwarrh Health Services have extended community engagement into the second half of 2020. The decision was made in response to feedback from staff, doctors, community advisory and fundraising groups. Importantly this also recognises the immediate priorities for health service staff in addressing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This Community Update details learnings from community engagement to date and the key concerns raised.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INPUT AND FEEDBACK COLLECTED ACROSS

1. HEALTH SERVICE AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS

From January to March, discussions were held with staff, senior leaders from both health services, hospital and health service support and advisory groups, as well as fundraising groups.

2. WEBSITE FOR COMMUNITY INPUT AND QUESTIONS

Launched early February and has received 77 responses, all reviewed by chief executives at both health services, and responded to individually.

3. FURTHER ENGAGEMENTS

COVID-19 restrictions placed physical community engagement on hold. We will re-commence meeting with the community when COVID-19 restrictions allow.

COLLECTED AND PASSED ON TO THE GROUP OVERSEEING THE PROJECT

Further staff and community engagement and review of benefits

REPORT / FINAL DECISION

For more information and to have your say visit:
betterhealthforthewest.com.au



ANSWERING YOUR CONCERNS

WILL GRANT LODGE OR BACCHUS MARSH HOSPITAL CLOSE?

There is absolutely no intention to close Bacchus Marsh Hospital or Grant Lodge, whatever the outcome of this process. Both are crucial services for the Bacchus Marsh community, as shown by the significant funding support for Bacchus Marsh and Melton Regional Hospital. With continuing rapid population growth, increased local service demand is expected.

WILL COMMUNITY SERVICES CLOSE?

Community programs will continue. Djerriwarrh community services provide high-quality care and are a vital service in and around Bacchus Marsh. A key part of the current process is understanding how these services could be integrated with Western Health network services.

WILL I BE ABLE TO CHOOSE A HEALTH SERVICE?

Patients always have the choice of where they are referred onto, provided it is clinically appropriate. If people want to go to hospitals or specialist medical services in, for example, Ballarat or Geelong instead of Sunshine or Footscray, they can do so.

WILL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT COMMUNITIES STILL BE SUPPORTED?

Aboriginal community health and support is a key and important consideration of the project. Both health services provide specific services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including Djerriwarrh Health Services' award-winning Babaneek Booboo project and Western Health's award-winning maternity programs.



WILL THERE BE JOB LOSSES?

If an amalgamation is recommended and approved, there will likely be changes in how some support and administration services are delivered, but that will only become evident over the medium term.

As it stands, both health services are managing rapidly expanding catchment populations, meaning more services, skills and infrastructure are required to ensure better client care and service provision. Under that scenario, it's expected staffing numbers overall will increase independent of the outcome.

WILL BACCHUS MARSH LOSE LOCAL REPRESENTATION?

Ensuring effective community representation and local leadership is an important consideration in any potential amalgamation. There will always be the requirement of local executive leadership. Drawing on the examples of other service amalgamations, the executive leadership of an amalgamated entity routinely spends time at every site. In this scenario the executive leaders would also be visible and present across Djerriwarrh Health Services. Western Health would also ensure local community representation on the Diversity and Community Advisory Committee.

WILL HEALTHCARE BE CENTRALISED?

Local health infrastructure in communities like Bacchus Marsh and Melton will be maintained to ensure effective and accessible services for the catchment population. Continued population growth means there will be a focus on growing local services, not reducing or centralising.

WILL WAITING TIMES BE LONGER?

Exploring the potential benefits of amalgamation includes a review of clinical service models. If amalgamation is recommended and approved, there would be one central waiting list to capture patient information, related to outpatient services and elective surgery, to provide great visibility of numbers and waiting times. This will give patients a choice of where they would prefer to receive their care (where clinically appropriate). A guiding principle for this process is there are no plans to reduce local service provision.