



Djerriwarrh Health Services is an outstanding provider of community care and an exemplar of a safe, sustainable community service.



The Melton Hospital development is much needed for the communities we serve. The decision to allocate management of this new hospital to Western Health has been the trigger for the discussion as to the net community benefit of the two service providers amalgamating.

We are talking with our staff, doctors, support, advisory and fundraising groups as well as our community about what this could mean.

Any future decisions will be based on demonstrating a community benefit that will ensure the best health services for our diverse, evolving and rapidly growing communities.

Dr. John Ballard

Administrator, Djerriwarrh Health Services



Melbourne's western growth corridor is one of Australia's fastest growing catchments. What comes with that, is the need to explore and assess the future health needs of this region.

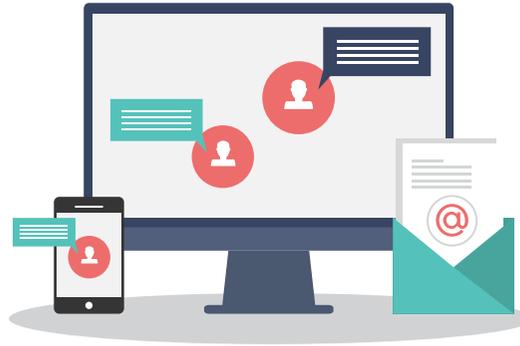


This exploration with Djerriwarrh Health Services focuses on our future healthcare needs, and what benefits could flow from a voluntary amalgamation.

We are engaging with staff, stakeholders and communities to ensure we have the broadest possible input on which to base any recommendations.

The Hon Bronwyn Pike

Chair, Western Health



CONTACT US

If you have a question or would like to provide input in to the process please contact us via:

betterhealthforthewest.com.au

HEALTH SERVICE INFORMATION

Djerriwarrh Health Services

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 Bacchus Marsh, VIC
Phone: 03 5367 2000

Western Health

Facebook: @westernhealthau
Address: Gordon Street, Footscray, VIC
Phone: 03 8345 1333



COMMUNITY UPDATE

MARCH 2020

EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF AN AMALGAMATION

In December 2019, the State Government announced that a new Melton hospital will be managed by Western Health.

Following this, the Board of Western Health and Administrator of Djerriwarrh Health Services began a project to explore the community benefits of a potential amalgamation.

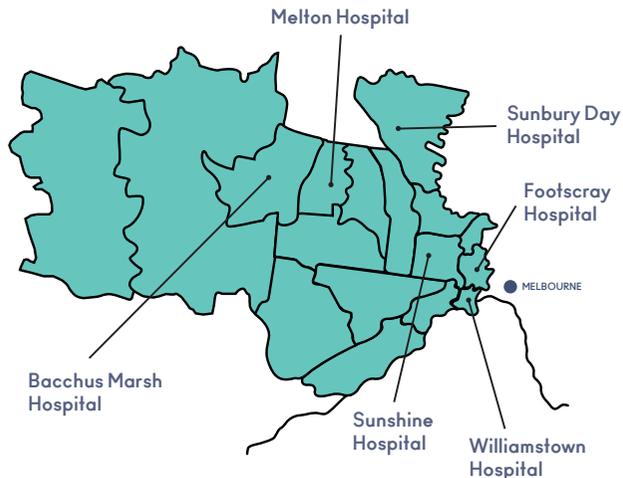
This newsletter provides an update on that process and outlines how our communities can have their say on the future of healthcare in the region.

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WESTERN GROWTH CORRIDOR

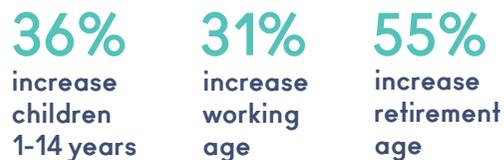
Western Health and Djerriwarrh already share services, have overlapping boundaries and are increasingly interdependent. Together we serve the healthcare needs of nearly **985,000** Victorians and employ more than **7,600** people from 13 sites and care campuses, across one of Australia's fastest growth corridors, with its population increasing at a rate of 3 per cent year-on-year.



Projection of population growth over 20 years:



Predicted growth projections across the combined service area by 2026 include:



Please visit betterhealthforthewest.com.au for more information on the area.

KEY QUESTIONS

What is an amalgamation?

The *Health Services Act (1988)* requires any amalgamation of health services in Victoria to be voluntary and agreed upon between boards. Any decision to amalgamate must be based on demonstrating community benefit.

What happens?

An independent project manager helps the two health services prepare a report, which contains an assessment of whether an amalgamation is in the public interest.

If the report demonstrates net community benefit and each health service board were to recommend a voluntary amalgamation, the report is then forwarded to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for consideration.

When will a decision be made?

The length of this process is yet to be determined. Throughout, our priority will be to continue to provide outstanding care.

What potential benefits are being looked at?

Any amalgamation needs to deliver a net improvement to the provision of services for the communities served by each health service. This could include better sharing of resources, increased access to higher levels of clinical expertise and a broader range of diagnostic equipment, clearer referral pathways, reduced duplication, increased opportunities for staff and a stronger funding base to support patient needs.

Will there be an impact on services in Bacchus Marsh?

No, Bacchus Marsh Hospital and services such as Grant Lodge facility will continue to operate into the future, irrespective of the outcome of this process.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Discussions began with service staff in January and continued in February. Community meetings and further staff consultations will continue in the coming months.



TO HAVE YOUR SAY, VISIT:

betterhealthforthewest.com.au

All responses and issues raised during engagements sessions and through the website are noted and forwarded on to the group overseeing the project for consideration. All are being carefully considered.