

MEDIA RELEASE



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The communities of Hepburn and Macedon Ranges are set to benefit from better health, as their health services look to ways to enhance co-operation and joint services.

The Boards of Hepburn Health Service and Kyneton District Health are exploring partnerships together.

Since April, with the support of both boards, KDH's Maree Cuddihy has been joint CEO.



This successful co-operation led the neighbours to consider ways of working more closely together, and to investigate potential partnership models.

“This opportunity gave our health services the impetus to look at how we might collaborate to locally meet future health needs,” said HHS Chair, Phillip Thomson.

“Having a more regional focus on the health needs of the community could lead to enhanced and expanded services that will benefit the towns and communities right across our region.”

KDH Board President, Peter Matthews, explained that the project stems from a commitment to place-based and community-centred health.

“We want to improve patient care and community health outcomes by maintaining local leadership of sustainable, long-term and high-quality services,” he said.

Communities can be reassured that their local health service will continue to service local needs.

“This is a genuine attempt to discover if our health services can become better by sharing skills, staff, infrastructure, and scale,” Mr Thomson said.

A joint working group is currently reviewing population health trends and services data, to identify areas of partnership potential.

Local people will be invited to contribute to the exploratory conversations in early 2018.

The community consultation that emerges from this engagement process will guide the Boards' decisions about next steps.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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IMAGE

L-R: Peter Matthews (KDH), Maree Cuddihy (Joint CEO), Phillip Thomson (HHS).

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