

SAVE HEALESVILLE HOSPITAL ACTION GROUP



REVIVE, MAINTAIN & EXPAND

***Meeting with the Hon. David Davis
Minister for Health
16th May, 2013***

The Save Healesville Hospital Action Group

The Save Healesville Hospital Action Group was formed on the 10th December as a result of dis-satisfaction from the local community with Eastern Health's Draft Strategic 2022 Clinical Services Plan.

The community group representatives who came together included a councillor, former nurse, a practicing doctor and community representatives. The committee members include; Cr. Fiona McAllister, Sheryl Treen, Kersten Gentle, Jane Judd, Bev Schmolling, Angela McSweeney, Gayle Slater and Dr. Peter Carruthers.

However, the group is not simply a group of individuals but a group who has been overwhelmingly endorsed by the local community and a range of groups. The SHHAG is supported by the Yarra Ranges Shire Council, Healesville Indigenous Community Services, local Medical Practitioners, Service Clubs including Rotary, Bendigo Community Bank and most importantly community members from the greater Yarra Ranges region plus Toolangi, Marysville, Alexandra and Lilydale.

The aim of the group has to engage the community, seeking their views on what they believe the health services needs are for their communities. Unfortunately due to the way in which Eastern Health conducted itself early in the review there is a lack of trust from the community.

Eastern Health with no community input cut maternity services from Healesville Hospital, even though there is 3,843 'fertile' women potentially dependent on the services at the hospital. This is unacceptable and as a result there is no child birthing facilities within the entire Shire of Yarra Ranges which is 2,500 sq.kms.

The communities have made an informed decision to either fight for Eastern Health to provide a wide range of services which will see services at Healesville Hospital and Yarra Ranges Community Health Revived, Maintained and Expanded OR to pursue the option of our services becoming a Small Rural Health Service which they believe will meet their communities needs.

The Save Healesville Hospital Action Group has undertaken thorough research and have met Eastern Health, State & Federal local members and we, along with the community are pinning our hopes on you; The Hon. Mr Davis, the Victorian Minister for Health to either ensure Eastern Health provides the services our rural communities need or contribute funding to a Business Plan to look at the option of the Healesville Hospital, Yarra Valley Community Health and Monda Lodge becoming our own Small Rural Health Service.

We thank you for your time and look forward to working with you to deliver the health services our rural communities deserve.

Yours truly
Save Healesville Hospital Action Group

So what are the minimum services our rural communities need?

The Save Healesville Hospital Action Group has discussed the needs of the rural communities with doctors and the wider community and we believe recognition needs to be given that this is a rural area and has a different set of needs to that of urban areas.

- Return lost surgical services including; but not limited to, General Surgery, Gynaecology and Endoscopy with Day surgery- same day and multi day
- Provide ante and post natal care by local Midwives
- Develop a Mother and baby Unit
- Increase DRG scope to optimise revenue model for 19 beds
- Acute inpatient scenarios; now 810 WEIS but would be increased with a split between public and private revenue streams
- Return to the fee for service or other adequate remuneration for specialists coming to Healesville
- Introduction of Urgent Care (triage nurse based)
- New Renal Dialysis service.
- Reinstate Maternity- Promote Birthing services -70 per year

Additionally;

- Maintenance of the community health services currently in place
- Provide culturally appropriate care to the Indigenous community
- Maintain Allied health outpatients services and Rehabilitation Service
- Maintain local employment and cessation of plans to contract out work
- Commit delivery of the promised \$3 million Capital Funding
- Cessation of threats by Eastern Health to staff of this hospital who speak up on these issues.

We believe these services can be provided for our rural communities under a Small Rural Health Service. The current offer of services by Eastern Health currently does not meet the needs of our communities.

Small Rural Health Service Business Plan

The Save Healesville Hospital Action Group has researched the option of whether a Small Rural Health Service (SRHS) would be applicable for our communities. First of all we meet the criteria and secondly during our research of other SRHS facilities such as Koo Wee Rup, Alexandra, Seymour and Mansfield we discovered that the services for the rural communities were a vast improvement of what we currently have for the Healesville Hospital, Yarra Valley Community Health and Monda Lodge. Therefore we would like to develop a business case for a SRHS as below.

Purpose:

To develop a Business Case for the move from an Eastern Health operated set of services (incorporating Healesville Hospital, Yarra Valley Community Health and Monda Lodge) to reclassification as a Small Rural Health Service.

Priority:

Urgent

Consultancy Group:

The Save Healesville Hospital Action Group is in discussions with 5 recommended experienced consultants who are willing to undertake the Business Plan.

Commencement Time Frame:

Immediately upon receipt of funding.

Duration Time Frame:

One to two month period.

Expected Costing:

Approximately \$70,000

Funding:

In 1957 the Healesville Community was eager to assist with fundraising for the new Healesville Hospital and today that spirit still exists with the community wanting to contribute towards the Business Plan. We recommend 80% Government and 20% Community generated funds. We are in discussions with the Bendigo Community Banks within the wider Yarra Valley region as well as Rotary Clubs who have expressed a desire to assist with funding the Business Plan as well as working with the group and the communities to raise additional funds through raffles, community events and donations.

The key to a successful Business Plan is ensuring Eastern Health will cooperate with the review process, providing data as required by the brief. We call on the Victorian Government to work in conjunction with our communities for the best possible outcome and to ensure we explore all options available to our communities which includes the creation of a Small Rural Health Service.

Why are the communities so passionate?

In January 1957, following a 20 year campaign by the local Healesville Community the Minister for Health, the Hon. E.P Cameron MLC officially opened the new Healesville District Hospital.

Even in 1957 it was recognised that for people to want to live in a rural community a modern must be provided. The Minister at the opening paid recognition to the Healesville people, who he said *"had worked hard and given generously to provide their share of the cost...."*

The land was donated for the purpose of providing a hospital for the community and the local community raised much needed funds to contribute to the hospital's construction and fittings. Timber companies donated timber and local businesses helped donate goods for fundraisers such as the spinning wheel, as everyone knew this was something our community desperately needed.

Many people within the communities have either been born at the hospital, had their children there or unfortunately lost a loved one at Healesville Hospital and the passion is still as strong as it was in the 20 years prior to 1957 and the community is once again ready for a fight to rebuild our hospital.



HEALESVILLE GUARDIAN

(Morwell Hodges, Proprietor and Editor, Phone 91)

CIRCULATING IN HEALESVILLE, YARRA GLEN, TARRAWARRA, COLDSTREAM, YERING AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS
BUXTON, TOOLANGI, MARYSVILLE, GRUYERE, LILYDALE, CHUM CREEK, BADGER CREEK, MYER'S CREEK, NARBETHON

FRIDAY, 25th JANUARY, 1957

Our New £112,000 Hospital Officially Opened

A MODEL INSTITUTION, SECOND TO NONE IN THE STATE

The Minister for Health, the Hon. E. P. Cameron, M.L.C., officially opened the new £112,000 District Hospital in radiant sunshine at Healesville last Sunday afternoon. The building is the climax of more than 20 years' effort by Healesville people, and is one of the most modern hospitals in the State. The opening ceremony was attended by a crowd exceeding 1,000, flanked by local detachments of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and harmony was dispersed by the Healesville Brass Band at appropriate intervals.

Mr. James Barker, president of the Hospital Management Committee, paid tribute to the hospital architects, Messrs. Stephenson and Turner, the tractor, Mr. Kerr, and Mr. Montgomery.

Mr. Barker evoked reminiscences by referring to the efforts of Mrs. Ranchor, who worked diligently from outset, 20 years or so ago, had now come from her home in Queensland to be present at the opening ceremony. His good lady's zeal had mobilized the Healesville people's earnest desire for a hospital and their determination to see one firmly established, matter how many years were involved in the process.

It was believed that if people were to be induced to live in the country facilities such modern hospitals must be provided.

Mr. L. R. McKenzie (Shire president), supporting Mr. Barker's remarks, expressed the Shire Council's satisfaction at the completion of the project and congratulated all concerned on the successful outcome of their efforts. He said those in need of hospital care would find they could receive it at its best in their own local hospital. "But," he added, "I hope you don't let it."

Healesville being a timber industry district, there was also the possibility of bush sawmill accidents happen-

ing, which was another reason why Healesville needed a good hospital. It was now gratifying to know that such people could be cared for at Healesville.

Mr. McKenzie said he was proud of the Healesville people, and paid tribute to the liberal Government interest in the hospital project. He paid glowing tribute also to the ladies' auxiliaries, past and present, who in three years raised £961 for equipment and another £500 for the building fund.

The Council, he said, thanked the committee who had worked so arduously for hospitalization of the district, and all had worked harmoniously to this end.

The Healesville public, Mr. McKenzie said, gave and worked as no other shire people did. He thanked the Minister and other parliamentarians for their presence, and all who had aided the project in any way. (Applause.)

"I hope you don't have to use the hospital," he concluded, "but if you do you'll find it as good — or better — than any other hospital in Victoria." (Applause.)

The Minister for Health (Hon. Cameron) recalled the laying of the hospital foundation stone a year or so previously, and Dr. Lindell's association with the project. While the cost of the hospital might seem a lot of money to indi-

viduals, what was money compared with the value of people's health?

Healesville people, he said, had worked hard and given generously to provide their share of the cost, and the Government had been glad to make up the balance, it being their policy to use every effort to establish hospitals throughout Victoria in centres where it was obvious that groups of people would do their best to establish and maintain them.

Mr. Cameron ended his address by declaring that it was his "very great privilege and pleasure to declare the hospital open." (Applause.)

Vice-presidents Ivor Horman and James C. Tozer then detailed some of the efforts that had gone into establishing the hospital, which belonged to the Healesville people.

"That shilling you gave to something in the street," said Mr. Tozer, "or that two bob

you did on the spinning wheel, well, here they are in this hospital."

A cordial welcome was extended to Matron McKenzie, who had come to Healesville to conduct the hospital with highest credentials.

Satisfaction was also expressed at the appointment of Mr. Lloyd Hughes as secretary-manager.

The need for a ladies' auxiliary to continue its good work was stressed.

All present were invited to inspect the hospital and enjoy a cup of afternoon tea provided by the Infant Welfare Centre ladies.

Committee men and women were placed at strategic points to explain further what anyone wished to know.

Cost of furnishings and equipment was clearly shown, and anyone wishing to donate the cost of any item on the premises was thus enabled to do so.



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