



# SAVE HEALESVILLE HOSPITAL ACTION GROUP

## COMMUNITY URGES HOSPITAL GROUP TO FIGHT ON

Residents within the wider Yarra Valley have overwhelmingly supported the Save Healesville Hospital Action Group to continue their fight to revive, maintain and expand services at Healesville Hospital and to decline the offer on the table by Eastern Health.

“The Save Healesville Hospital Action Group was dismayed at the Open Letter sent by Eastern Health’s CEO Alan Lily which gave the impression that all is fine and that the community had been listened to and as a result would have surgery, maternity and dialysis services at Healesville Hospital, but this not exactly the case”, said Cr Fiona McAllister, Chair of the Save Healesville Hospital Action Group (SHHAG).

“Surgery will be maintained and the \$3 million redevelopment money, which was promised for dialysis, will be spent on redeveloping the surgical amenities, however no funding or timeframes have been provided for the return of maternity services or the promised dialysis which is unacceptable”, said Cr McAllister.

In a letter addressed to Eastern Health CEO, Alan Lily following the meeting with SHHAG, committee member Beverley Schmolling expressed her bitter disappointment at the announcement that dialysis would not be provided.

“I have belted by head against a brick wall since 2006 for those people who simply haven’t the energy or strength to fight for this cause”, said Mrs Schmolling who also quoted from a letter received in 2010 by the then sitting member of Parliament, Ben Hardman who congratulated her for the hard work she had put in to securing the \$3 million funding for Renal Dialysis to be provided at Healesville Hospital.

Mrs Schmolling went on to say; “Quite frankly I don’t believe that when funding is made available for a particular purpose, that Eastern Health has the right to use that money for other than what that money was originally given for. If I had personally had received funding for a special project from a Government or like body, and I decided after it was granted to spend the money differently, I would be up on a fraud charge, and rightly so.”

“For Eastern Health to now claim they don’t have the funds for Renal Dialysis is outrageous as the interest alone from the \$3 million promised in 2010 would cover the costs for Dialysis as well as pay for the upgrade to surgery”, said Mrs Schmolling

“Eastern Health claims that SHHAG was holding up the redevelopment and improvements to the hospital and implied we were not acting on behalf of the community and therefore we conducted a survey asking the community if we should accept the offer on the table from EH or continue to fight to revive, maintain and expand services”, said Cr McAllister

“All responses haven’t been collected, however at this early stage 500 people have responded to the survey with only 3 people saying we should accept the offer and an overwhelming 99.4% of respondents encouraging us to fight for the services our hospital deserves and our rural communities desperately need”, said Cr McAllister

“SHHAG has another meeting with the Victorian Health Minister, the Hon. Minister Davis on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July and are currently in discussions with Federal Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell to secure a meeting with the Federal Health Minister, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek to argue our case for the future of our hospital.”

“ In the meantime we call for an immediate moratorium on all Eastern Health’s plans for the redevelopment of Healesville Hospital including spending money promised by the Brumby Government for Renal Dialysis”, concluded Cr McAllister

For further information please call: Cr Fiona McAllister, SHHAG Chair – 0408 349 640  
Beverley Schmolling, SHHAG Committee Member – 5962 4859

*Attached is Beverley Schmolling’s letter to EH CEO Alan Lily and the Announcement by Ben Hardman on \$3million for Dialysis*

*Beverley Schmolling,  
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14th June, 2013.*

Mr. Alan Lilly,  
CEO Eastern Health.  
251 Mountain Highway,  
Wantirna, 3152..

Dear Alan,

Following the recent meeting with members of the Eastern Health Board, I was bitterly disappointed that after I had been given assurance by Karen and yourself that Renal Dialysis would go ahead at the Healesville Hospital I could not believe what I was hearing.

I have belted my head against a brick wall since 2006 for those people who simply haven't the energy or strength to fight for this cause.

In 2010 I received this message from the then sitting member Ben Hardman, (brochure incl) Mr. Hardman hand wrote "Congratulations after all the work you have put into Renal Dialysis best wishes" Ben Hardman, Member for Seymour.

Quite frankly I don't believe that when funding is made available for a particular purpose that Eastern Health has the right to use that money for other than what that money was originally given for.

If I personally had received funding for a special project from a government or like body, and I decided after it was granted to spend the money differently, I would be up on a fraud charge, and rightly so. You can't do this, you have broken a promise. and it is just disgraceful.( You now have the reputation of the Federal Government) (Andrew Bolt has been pretty hard on the Fed's on broken promises???) And I will be seeking legal advice.

At our meeting you said you were disappointed with the way you had been betrayed I personally take no responsible for that, however we can't control the editors of the local papers, and quite frankly I shudder to think of the field day they will have with this one. " Eastern Health Steal Renal Dialysis Funding"

Renal Dialysis is these patients lifeline and they can't live without it, and I think if you had to sit in those chairs 3 times per week 52 weeks in a year, I think you may be more compassioned, I know one who would be coming across to Healesville has been on the machines for 10 years. These patients need this service now and not further down the the track in 2- 3 years time. This funding has been sitting on the table for far too long.

There are other area's within the hospital for the machines to go.

**Brick meeting room at back of hospital** (Show society used to meet there) would be ideal for Ambulance drop off.

**Ward at the far end of hospital**

**Satellite Centre Pre/fab like Maroondah.**

At the first meeting at Healesville when I first met Karen, I explained that I would never give up until this promise was for filled and I won't. That funding was given for a particular purpose and it must be used for exactly what it was given for. It would be dishonest to redirect this money else ware, Easter Health can seek their own additional funding, this funding belong to the purpose for which it was given.

Yours sincefely,



Beverley Schmolling.

- cc Hon Denis Naphine, Premier of Victoria.
- cc Hon Daniel Andrews, Opposition Leader
- cc .Karen Fox, Eastern Health
- cc Dr. Joanne Flynn AM Eastern Health
- cc HonMinister for Health David Davis.
- cc Hon. Gavin Jennings Shadow Minister for Health
- cc Cindy McLeish Member for Seymour
- cc Christine Fyffe Member for Evelyn



NEW FACILITIES,  
BETTER SERVICES

**BUDGET10**  
VICTORIAN STATE BUDGET

Dear Mr and Mrs Schmolling,

When you or a family member are sick you want to be able to get the help you need close to home.

That is why the Brumby Government is expanding facilities at the Healesville Hospital, including the Yarra Valley Community Health Centre.

In the 2010 State Budget, the Brumby Government is investing \$3 million in a refurbishment to accommodate additional outpatient services, including ante and post-natal clinics, renal dialysis and mental health services.

The community health centre will also be refurbished and expanded to provide more of the services that make a difference for people every day.

It is part of a record \$4 billion investment into Victoria's health system which the Brumby Government is delivering in partnership with the Commonwealth.

This investment will provide new hospitals, more doctors, more nurses, more ambulance services and extra hospital beds. It will provide more outpatient, and elective surgery services.

Most of all, it will help provide treatment when you need it – closer to home.

Yours sincerely,

**Ben Hardman MP**  
State Member for Seymour

PS: For more information on how the Brumby Government is supporting local services, you can also call Member for Northern Victoria **Kaye Darveniza's** office on 5831 6521.



**Ben Hardman MP**, State Member for Seymour