

Seymour Health/Yea & District Memorial Hospital Voluntary Merger

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – YEA & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Why?

- **Why is Yea & District Memorial Hospital merging with Seymour Health?**

Yea & District Memorial Hospital and Seymour Health are currently exploring the possibility of merging their management teams. Due diligence has commenced voluntarily with the view to establishing better and expanded local health services for patients, and enhancing levels of care. The merger would secure the long term future of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital, and would give our staff better access to professional development and knowledge sharing opportunities.

We would also be able to better maintain and enhance our infrastructure and other assets. We're investigating ways to expand local health services in Yea, which could include enhanced Well Women's Clinics and other quality improvements.

- **Is this in effect the end of Yea & District Memorial Hospital and a takeover by Seymour Health?**

No. This is about securing the long term future of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital for generations of patients to come. The names of the individual hospitals will not change, the services and staffing levels at Yea and District as well as at Seymour Health will also be unaffected, and we will look at new ways to establish better and expanded local health services in Yea and surrounding areas. This is a merger, not a take-over. It will benefit both services.

- **Will this downgrade local health services?**

The opposite. This proposed voluntary merger will enhance local services and improve patient care for the people of Yea. However, the merger is not mandatory, and DHHS will only approve it once due diligence is complete and it's clear the merger will serve the best interests of both communities.

What would it mean for me?

- **How would this merger improve services?**

The proposed merger with Seymour Health would secure the future of the Hospital and better prepare it to serve the needs of the Yea community, now and into the future.

It would also help ensure the expansion of local health services in Yea, which potentially could include a foot clinic and a dental chair as well as enhanced Well Women's Clinics, podiatry services and palliative care. It will also help foster cooperation between staff and provide better professional development and knowledge sharing opportunities.

- **Would there be job losses as a result of this merger?**

No. There would be no reduction in staffing levels or jobs lost.

- **What would Yea & District Memorial Hospital be called should the merger proceed?**

The hospital would retain its existing name. Both organisations would fully retain their existing hospital names, services and staffing levels, and patient care would continue as usual.

- **Would I have to travel to Seymour to access services?**

No. All services at Yea will remain. Patient care will continue as usual. This is about improving services and not reducing them.

- **How would local community representation fit into the new structure?**

There will be local Yea representation on the new Board. The due diligence process will also examine the role existing local committees and groups will play in continuing to support Yea & District Memorial Hospital.

- **What would the merger practically mean for local GPs and consultants?**

There will be no changes to routine services, however there will be additional opportunities for shared care arrangements, information sharing and collaboration with those in Seymour.

- **Are you consulting with the local community on the proposed merger?**

We have, and will continue keep the local community fully informed and updated on developments throughout the due diligence process. Anyone with questions relating to the proposed merger should contact Director of Nursing/Manager, Lorina Gray at Yea & District Memorial Hospital.

OTHER QUESTIONS

- ***Is this merger really needed? Aren't both health services operating just fine at present?***
Yes they are. However, this proposed merger would strengthen and better prepare both services to serve the needs of the Yea and Seymour communities, now and into the future.
- ***What approval is required?***
The due diligence process for the proposed merger is expected to be finalised in the coming months. The proposal would require approval from the Victorian Government's Minister for Health and Human Services, Jill Hennessey MP.
- ***Why is this merger happening now?***
We believe now is the right time to unite both management teams as it would help secure the long-term future of the Yea & District Memorial Hospital, stimulate cooperation between staff and provide opportunity for better professional development and knowledge sharing.
- ***How long could the merger process take?***
A number of months.
- ***When would due diligence be completed?***
The proposed merger is expected to be finalised in the coming months. All aspects are progressing as expected and we are confident this merger would offer the best solution for both health services.
- ***What happens if the merger doesn't proceed as planned?***
Both hospitals would continue to operate as is. However, we believe a merger is very much in the best interests of both health services.
- ***Would this mean a reduction in funding?***
No. There would be no loss of funding from the Department of Health and Human Services.
- ***What does due diligence mean?***
The boards of both health services will undertake a comprehensive review of each other's assets and liabilities to ensure the proposed merger is in the best interests of both parties.

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