

## MEDIA RELEASE

23/11/2018

# Clinical plan aims to strengthen hospital's "Health Hub" role

Yea and District Memorial Hospital Board today announced that, following consultation with the community, its Clinical Services Plan was now complete and reflected the wish of the community to have more health services delivered locally. The Plan is now being used by the Board to inform a major update of the Hospital's Strategic Plan expected to be available for consultation in the first part of 2019.

The five-year plan identifies the goal of strengthening the hospital's role as a Health Hub - delivering, brokering and advocating for locals needing health care.

Using various arrangements, such as engagement with metropolitan hospitals and collaboration with regional partners, the hospital aims to improve access to services with a renewed focus on early years and health promotion.

Board Chair, Ian Marshman said the plan could be summed up as "continuing to do what is already being done – but working with other providers to add and increase access to more services locally".

He said that aged and residential aged care services would continue to be strengthened but more was being done to improve access to other models of care including chronic disease management, telehealth and transitional care as well as exploring new models of care becoming available through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

"The plan reflects the fact that our local area is ageing, and public transport is limited. Many in our community increasingly will not be able to drive long distances to access health services that are not available in Yea," he said.

"For that reason, the hospital must respond and attempt, within our resources, to improve access to as many of those services that we can, including home-based support and outreach services to locations across the Shire.

"Other areas that have been recognised as being in high demand are child and adult mental health support and drug and alcohol services. Working with other providers, we will be investigating how we can improve access to these services within our region."

"Aged care services will continue to be a core component of what we provide. We will seek to enhance services by strengthening the links with other providers, increasing consumer knowledge, and improving accessibility of services, including access to specialists.

Mr Marshman said a new direction in the Clinical Services Plan will be to engage with other services to strengthen child and family health services.

"The local demographic is changing, with more young families settling in the immediate region. We need to provide appropriate health services for them locally, if we are to support this trend."

A summary of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital's Clinical Service Plan is available on its website: [www.yeahospital.org.au](http://www.yeahospital.org.au) or from the hospital.

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*To provide coordinated services that enhance the health and wellbeing of the community.*