



COHUNA DISTRICT HOSPITAL.....

Our Hospital

Dear Cohuna community & surrounding district.....

On behalf of the Board of Cohuna District Hospital (CDH), it is my pleasure to provide the key findings for the Service Plan and future of healthcare needs over the next five to ten years.

The landscape is changing and as a Health Service, we need to define and re-balance our core services that best suit the community needs, now and into the future.

As a small rural health service, we have a continuing role in;

- ◇ Delivering low risk birthing services,
- ◇ Low complexity surgery,
- ◇ Low level acute medical services;
- ◇ Residential Aged Care;
- ◇ Urgent Care; and
- ◇ Community based and primary care to the community

The demand for acute health services is expected to increase over the coming decades, mainly due to the ageing population. As such, the provision of streamlined and comprehensive care for elderly patients is a priority area for service development.

Growing our local ability to deliver services in the home and having a smaller footprint of beds, but not eliminating acute services will require our resources to be managed more efficiently and effectively.

The Plan identifies several key goals to meet future community health needs, including collaboration with other health service providers in the catchment area. By not duplicating services, we can improve our chances of recruiting to full-time positions across the district.

The Plan recognises that many clinical areas are no longer fit-for-purpose and cause operational inefficiencies. The buildings and facilities will not be able to meet future demand and do not enable innovative models of care.

As a proud part of the Victorian health system, which is one of the best in the world, we want to make sure that the services provided at CDH are at the highest level with a clear focus on the safety of every patient and resident.

We want to make sure that:

- ◇ We are accountable,
- ◇ We work together, and

most importantly, that CDH harnesses technology to strengthen the delivery of safe patient care, now and into the future for the Cohuna community and surrounding district.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Sutherland
Chair, Board of Directors



KEY DRIVERS.....

Our community is changing, and Cohuna District Hospital (CDH) will be expected to meet the challenging demands in a range of areas.

Changing Policy landscape

Local health services are operating in an environment affected by changing government policies, social transformations, technological developments, and ever expanding regulatory requirements. An increased emphasis will be on clinical governance and service quality (Targeting Zero), Integration and Collaboration.

A changing health Profile

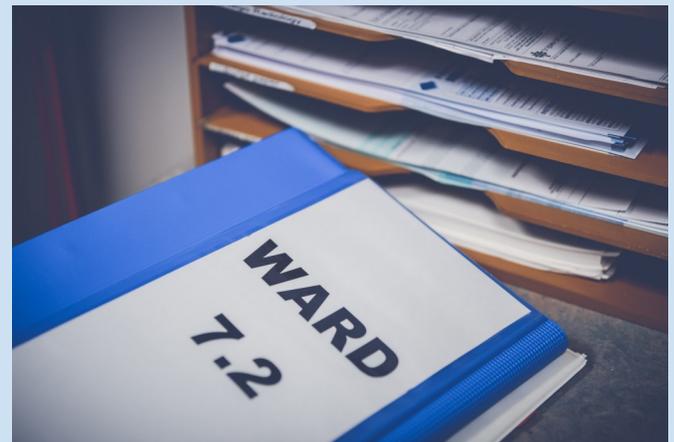
Four health priorities in the Loddon Gannawarra region; Diabetes, Heart Health, Mental Health and Oral Health were identified, however there is significantly higher (almost double) cancer incidents (10.2 per 1,000 population) compared to 5.3 for Victoria.

An Ageing population

From 2016—2031, proportion of residents aged >70 years will increase from 20.6% to 29.8%, despite an expected annual total population decline of 0.8%. An ageing population will drive demand for acute care, sub-acute care, residential care, primary and community care.

Increased demand

Higher prevalence of chronic diseases in the community and surrounding district, compared to Victorian rates will significantly increase the need for emergency services, dialysis, acute services and community service programs. 1.69 public hospital utilisation rate for Gannawarra Shire is 69% higher, when compared with the state-wide rate.



KEY CHALLENGES.....

Cohuna District Hospital must facilitate patient access to appropriate services, including referral pathways and align, collaborate and develop partnerships with other health services.

Service Delivery

CDH have a very limited range of available community-based services; District Nurse and Social Support Group. We also are the smallest provider of Residential Aged Care in the catchment area which poses a viability problem competing with larger more attractive Aged Care facilities.

Workforce

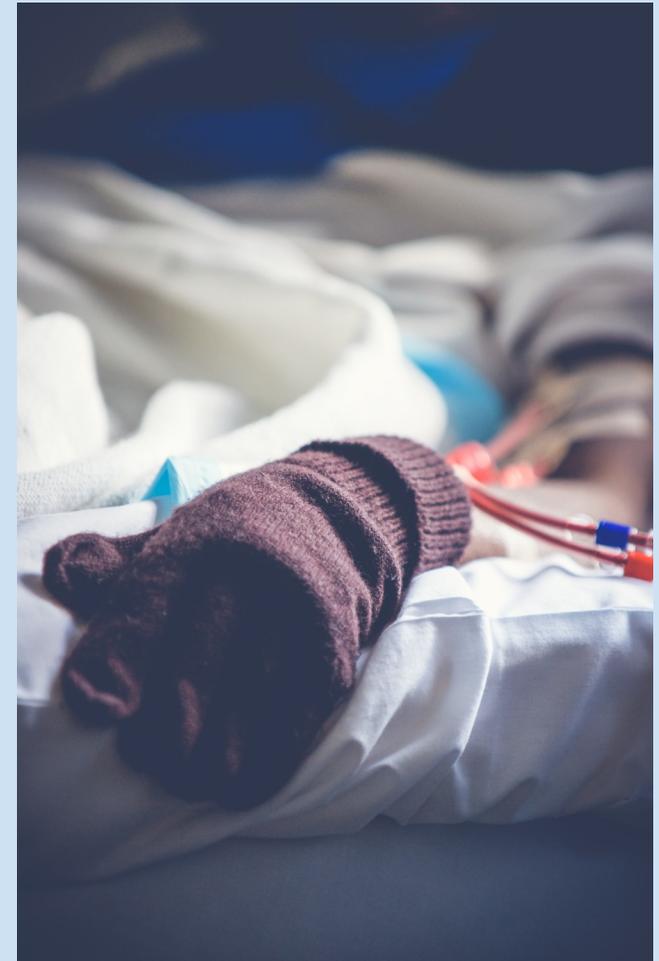
CDH has a strong history of workforce, but with a small ageing population, it is challenging to sustain the expertise, career opportunities and the patient complexity required to attract the professional skill mix and interest of health, medical and specialist staff.

Ambulatory Demands

Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSC) presentations are hospitalisations that are potentially avoidable with primary care and community support. Historically trends indicate that residents in our area have been less likely to see a General Practitioner and more likely to present to hospital when compared with Victorian averages.

Infrastructure

CDH buildings and clinical facilities will not be able to meet future demands and compliance with Australian Standards by 2019. There are current deficiencies that do not enable innovative models of care to generate greater patient care and service efficiency.



KEY GOALS.....

As a Small Rural Health Service, CDH will provide low acuity medical, obstetrics and surgical, Residential Aged Care, Urgent care, develop and strengthen community and primary based care services to the local community.

Together, this is how we'll meet future community health needs.

Local Access to Services.....

Ensure the community are treated locally, without travelling long distances from their families or homes. However, this does not mean that we can provide services requiring specialist care or treatment outside our capabilities and framework.

Maintain Low Risk Maternity and Newborn services.....

With strengthened partnerships between Bendigo Health, Swan Hill District Health, Echuca Regional Health and Ochre Medical Centre, the existing workforce is supported to deliver low risk maternity and newborn services. And whilst every effort is being made to ensure the ongoing provision of high quality for the continuation of the service a blueprint of recommendations

Maintain a 16 bed Residential Aged Care service.....

With a potential focus on bariatric, Indigenous, disability, dementia and transition care places

Master Plan.....

This body of work will include analysis of: model of care requirements, work flows, flexibility of available treatment spaces and scheduling of elective procedures.

KEY ENABLERS.....

CDH has identified critical areas of focus to achieve our goals in the Strategic Plan 2016—2020.

- ◆ Increase availability of Primary Health Care services and determine services required by our community. This will involve in actively participating in the development of local health needs in partnership with Murray Primary Health network, local government and other health care providers.
- ◆ Seek opportunities to strengthen obstetric and surgical services and consult broadly with the community, stakeholders and neighbouring health services.
- ◆ Develop workforce plans that ensure the workforce is appropriately qualified and skilled to support delivery of quality safe care.
- ◆ To have efficient and compliant infrastructure that will support service capability that better meets community expectations and provide a safer environment.
- ◆ Develop Information and Communication systems to support quality of care and expand services to maximise telemedicine capability to Echuca Regional Health and Bendigo Health Care Group.
- ◆ Establish strategic partnerships to enhance services available to our community and actively participate and contribute to joint service planning projects in the Gannawarra and Loddon shires.

It is our role to have an efficient and sustainable health service that continues to focus on quality and risk minimisation, whilst maintaining financial viability and seeking every opportunity to enhance community engagement.

