



**WEST GIPPSLAND  
HEALTHCARE GROUP**

*Caring for our Community*

OP=BAH/G0101

19 October 2004

Dr J Goodall  
Legislation Review  
Public Health  
Department of Human Services  
GPO Box 1670N  
Melbourne Vic 3001

Dear Dr Goodall

**REVIEW OF THE HEALTH ACT 1958**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I would submit the following:

1. I would support the name 'Population Health Act' as it will help to increase the focus the act should have on the health of the population.
2. I strongly support the promotion of public health as we need to significantly increase health promotion activities if we are to improve the health and well being of our communities.
3. Public health plans should continue to be developed in conjunction with the community and local health care providers. The health plan could be for a 3 year period and a joint exercise (between shires and local health providers) if it is to be beneficial in improving the populations health.

The concept of 'Health, Wellbeing Plans' linked to corporate plan of municipalities and health care agencies is to be supported.

4. The Act should encourage a more pro-active approach to health promotion and risk prevention.
5. Health Impact Assessment should be introduced in the new Act to ensure health issues are considered in all developmental initiatives to prevent any potential adverse health events as a result of such initiatives.

**West Gippsland Hospital (Head Office)** Landsborough Street, Warragul Victoria 3820   
Tel (03) 5623 0611 Fax (03) 5623 0896 Email: info@wghg.com.au

**Rawson Community Health Centre** PO Rawson Victoria 3825   
Tel (03) 5165 3236 Fax (03) 5165 3268 Email: gtraw@netspace.net.au

**Cooinda Lodge** Landsborough Street, Warragul Victoria 3820   
Tel (03) 5623 0769 Fax (03) 5623 0896 Email: cooinda.clerk@wghg.com.au

**Andrews House** School Road, Trafalgar Victoria 3824   
Tel (03) 5633 2665 Fax (03) 5633 1018 Email: traf@wghg.org.au

**Baw Baw Health and Community Care Centre** 33 Young Street, Drouin Victoria 3818  
Tel (03) 5625 0200 Fax (03) 5625 0246 Email: bbbcc@wghg.com.au

**Community Services - Warragul** 34 Queen Street, Warragul Victoria 3820  
Tel (03) 5623 4488 Fax (03) 5623 4135 Email: wgcsd@wghg.com.au

**Community Services - Trafalgar** Contingent Street, Trafalgar Victoria 3824  
Tel (03) 5633 1977 Email: trafchs@wghg.org.au

**Warragul Linen Service** Ley Street, Warragul Victoria 3820  
Tel (03) 5623 4056 Fax (03) 5623 5074 Email: info@wls.com.au

Website: www.wghg.com.au  
ABN 39 261 883 406

6. Risk Management is now a basic ingredient of good planning and a common risk management frame work would assist and guide organisations and increase the focus on risk prevention.
7. The Act needs to be worded so that it is simple and clear to understand and not cluttered with legal jargon that is difficult to interpret and implement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely



**Ormond Pearson**  
Chief Executive Officer