

Tuesday, 30 June 2009

## **BORDER HEALTH SERVICE TAKES OFF WITH NEW BOARD**

The Albury Wodonga Health service commences operation tomorrow with a new board, Victorian Health Minister Daniel Andrews said today.

“The new board of Albury Wodonga Health has a unique and exciting opportunity to lead and govern the first cross-border health service in Australia,” Mr Andrews said.

“The new health service is the result of a long-standing commitment by the Victorian and New South Wales Governments to meet the changing needs of the border community while maintaining the delivery of the best possible health care into the future.

“This is a landmark occasion for the people of the region and will lead to a more integrated health service for residents living on the border.

“People can continue to have the confidence that they will receive the very best healthcare, regardless of where they live.

“The new directors of Albury Wodonga Health will contribute to a quality board. They possess excellent professional credentials and a strong commitment to the local community.

“NSW Health Minister John Della Bosca and I have agreed that the first board of AWH will comprise an equal number of directors nominated by each of us,” Mr Andrews said.

The new board directors of Albury Wodonga Health are:

- Associate Professor Julia Coyle, Head of the School of Community Health, Charles Sturt University;
- Christopher Halburd, solicitor and part owner of Skinner and Associates;
- Victor Issell, Manager, Lifeline Mountain to Murray and councillor, Indigo Shire Council;
- Nicola Melville, CEO of Bogong Regional GP Training Network; and
- Ian Thompson, CEO of Aware Industries Limited.

These board directors will join the inaugural chair of Albury Wodonga Health, Ulf Ericson.

It is anticipated that Victoria will appoint a seventh board director shortly.

Mr Ericson said he was delighted with the board of the new health service.

“It brings together great expertise and experience with strong links across the border region,” he said.

“The board will have an important role in building a strong foundation to meet the future health care needs of the community.”

**\*Details of the five new board members of Albury Wodonga Health are attached.**

# Albury Wodonga Health Board

## Christopher Halburd



Christopher is a Solicitor and Harvard Law School trained mediator. He has a Masters in Dispute Resolution and has been a member of the New South Wales Law Society Dispute Resolution Committee. He has served as an Arbitrator in the Local Court of New South Wales and remains on a number of mediation panels. Christopher is a shareholder in Skinner & Associates Legal Practice, where he has worked for the past 20 years. Christopher also holds a Graduate Certificate of Applied Law (Family Law) and a Diploma of Financial Services (Financial Planning). He lives in Albury with his wife Tracey.

## Dr Julia Coyle



Julia trained as a physiotherapist in the United Kingdom and came to Australia in 1985 where she gained experience in metropolitan, remote and regional areas. This experience fostered commitment to improving health care for inland communities in Australia. Julia joined the School of Community Health at Charles Sturt University in 1999. The School of Community Health programs, founded on principles of integrated practice and community partnerships, have made a significant impact on allied health services, particularly in rural and regional Australia. Julia's key research interests fall in two areas, inter-professional practice and injury prevention.

## Nicola Melville



Nicola is the CEO of the Bogong Regional GP Training Network. Previously Nicola was the CEO of the Upper Hume Community Health Service, where she provided visionary leadership transforming a small community health service to a large provider of ambulatory services within North East Victoria. Her current research is focused on health care teams and falls prevention in rural Australia. Nicola played a significant leadership role in the implementation of the Primary Care Partnership strategy at a local and state level.

## Victor Issell



Victor is an Indigo Shire Councillor and past Mayor. He is the Manager of Lifeline Mountains to Murray – a telephone counselling service. Victor is the Deputy Chair of Albury Wodonga Community Foundation. He has a Degree majoring in politics and media studies with tertiary qualifications in youth work, education and health administration. Victor is an Associate Fellow of the Australian College of Health Service Executives.

## Ian Thompson



Ian graduated with an Associate Diploma in Forestry from the Victorian School of Forestry (1967) and a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from University of Melbourne (1970). Ian worked in the forestry industry for many years holding a range of management positions. Since 2000 Ian has held the position of CEO for Aware Industries Ltd – a community organisation providing cost effective labour solutions for businesses and supported employment for people with a disability.