

## ALBURY WODONGA HEALTH INTEGRATION UPDATE

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Welcome to this fortnight's Albury Wodonga Health newsletter. The Planning and Establishment Committee and other working parties have been very busy across a range of important projects.

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Greater Southern Area Health Service

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### Recruitment of a CEO for AWH

Finding the right person to take charge of the new integrated health service Albury Wodonga Health is one of the top priorities to be addressed over the next few months.

A specialist recruitment company, Oppeus, has been engaged by the Victorian Department of Human Services to begin the process of finding a CEO for Albury Wodonga Health (AWH). Oppeus are experts in executive search and have a specialist health practice.

Once the AWH board chair and/or members are appointed Oppeus will work closely with them to refine the search process and review the qualities of potential candidates for the position. The Board is responsible for the selection and appointment of the CEO.

The new CEO will have a pivotal role in directing AWH through the transition period, working closely with the board, and taking primary responsibility for the appointment of the executive team for the new health service.

## Transition of Albury Base VMO contracts to AWH

A meeting was held on Thursday 12 March with Visiting Medical Officers contracted to Albury Base Hospital. The meeting discussed the transition of VMO services to AWH.

Albury Base Hospital will no longer come under the authority of Greater Southern Area Health Service from 1 July 2009. As a result, new VMO contracts will need to be made under AWH. Work is now underway to draft new contracts which will be further discussed with affected medical staff over coming weeks.

## Information Systems

The working group looking at IT infrastructure, corporate systems and telecommunications for the new entity met on 10 March. The focus of the group is on integrated communication systems across both campuses of the AWH. This includes looking at corporate systems such as email and file sharing, as well as telecommunications and data networking.

## Frequently Asked Questions – patient referrals

### **Will Albury Base Hospital continue to refer patients into NSW services after 1 July?**

The two campuses of AWH will continue to use the current referral pathways to other health-related service providers to ensure continuity of care for the patient. This includes NSW based services such as Community Health, Mercy Health Service, ACAT, Home Care or other services. The move of Albury Base Hospital to a Victorian managed service will not change the existing service relationships or referral patterns.

Answers to a range of frequently asked questions can be found on the AWH website at [www.health.vic.gov.au/awh](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/awh)

## Further information

Visit: [www.health.vic.gov.au/awh](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/awh) or email: [awh@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:awh@dhs.vic.gov.au)