

ALBURY WODONGA HEALTH INTEGRATION UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES

Welcome to this fortnight's edition of the Albury Wodonga Health Integration newsletter. This edition includes a report on a historic meeting of Nurse Managers from both sides of the border.

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Chief Executive
Greater Southern Area Health Service

Mr Ray Sweeney
Chief Executive Officer
Wodonga Regional Health Service

IN THIS EDITION

**Historic meeting of
Nurse Managers**

**New AWH website
to be established**

Historic meeting of Nurse Managers

Nurse Managers from the Albury and Wodonga Hospitals have held a joint meeting on integrating patient care between the two organisations. Thirty Nurse Managers and senior staff met to discuss the integration and how they can improve access and coordination of care for patients of the new Albury Wodonga Health.

The Albury Wodonga Health Nurse Managers Working Party has been formed to examine a number of patient care issues. The initial focus of the working party will be bed management processes, admission and discharge policies and reviewing patient transfer/referral between the two sites. These issues are seen as being the keys to improving patient access to the new Albury Wodonga Health.

Once significant progress has been made on these issues, the Nurse Managers will start working on additional strategies for better integrating patient care across the Albury and Wodonga campuses of Albury Wodonga Health.



The Nurse Managers meeting was hosted by Wodonga Chief Executive Officer Ray Sweeney and Albury Base Hospital Site Manager Catherine O'Connell. Catherine and Ray reminded the Nurse Managers of the importance that the Albury-Wodonga community has placed on integration and the opportunities that integration will create to meet the healthcare needs of this growing region.

New AWH website to be established

Given the increasing importance of the internet to efficient communication, early decisions have been made about how Albury Wodonga Health will be identified and accessed on the world wide web. The homepage for Albury Wodonga Health will be www.awh.org.au. Staff emails will also change. Email addresses for the staff will use the format of username@awh.org.au. Existing staff email addresses will remain in place for the moment. Staff will be given advance notice of any change to their email address. Even after the change-over, old email addresses will continue to work for a period of time to allow for a seamless transition to the new system.

Work will now start on establishing the Albury Wodonga Health website. Initially the site will provide links to the existing Greater Southern Area Health Service and Wodonga Regional Health Service websites. AWH-specific information will be added over the coming months as the project progresses. Any suggestions about the sort of information that would be useful to include on the website would be most welcome, and should be sent to the email address at the bottom of this newsletter.

Further information

Visit: www.health.vic.gov.au/awh or email: awh@dhs.vic.gov.au