



Letter to Members

Tuesday 4 April 2023

Dear Member,

Notice of Special General Meeting

The Board of the McLaren Vale & Districts War Memorial Hospital has announced its decision to close the hospital on 30 June 2023 and negotiate a merger with not for profit aged care provider Kalyra to provide aged care services on site.

This decision has come after the hospital has struggled for many years to remain viable, facing challenges including ageing infrastructure, difficulty recruiting doctors and nurses, and escalating costs.

The decision has been made to negotiate with a not for profit provider which already provides an important local service in our community that aligns with the objectives of the hospital.

We do not believe the community would support the sale of the property to a private developer for commercial purposes.

The next step in this process in line with the hospital's Constitution is for the Board to hold a Special General Meeting where members can vote on resolutions. **This meeting will be held on Friday 5 May 2023 at 2pm in the Lutheran Hall, Aldersey Street, McLaren Vale.**

Please find attached your invitation to the meeting with the resolutions you will be asked to vote on at the meeting.

The Board asks members to consider key facts ahead of the meeting:

- The Board deliberated for a long time and considered every option before coming to this decision.
- The hospital no longer provides the services that the community really needs, and most patients are from outside of the area.
- Just 202 patients were admitted in 2022 and most were from outside the area.
- The McLaren Vale community is an ageing population, with almost 24% aged 65 and over, and demand for aged care services growing.
- Changing the use of the site from step down hospital services to aged care would mean more people use the facility and it would meet a growing demand.
- State Governments for many years have supported the hospital to stay open, but realistically, even with Government support and funding, the hospital is not viable.

Kalyra is a trusted not for profit aged care provider and through an arrangement with them key services including the Wellbeing GP clinic, Clinpath, SA Ambulance Service, and the volunteers' Op Shop and shed will stay. As well Tsong Gyiaou will be preserved, and its tenants can stay.

Kalyra's objectives align with those of the hospital, and they will look at the most need in our community, and specifically consider housing for older people that is more accessible than retirement villages. This could be targeted at older women, given the increasing number of women over 50 who find themselves homeless.

Kalyra's intention is to co-design with the community for what the future looks like while supporting all the current community activities on site except inpatients.

The Board wants to stress again we are incredibly grateful to the dedicated and committed staff who have worked so tirelessly to care for patients and keep our hospital open despite enormous pressures, and to our volunteers who have supported the hospital over many years.

For any inquiries please email: information@mclarenavalehospital.com.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Overland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Overland

Chair

Board of Directors