

McLaren Vale & Districts War Memorial Hospital



Update from the Board

26 May 2023

Thank you to members that attended the Special General Meeting on 5 May 2023. Unfortunately, key information has been lost in the debate over the hospital.

These are the facts:

- The ageing hospital is not viable. We cannot employ enough staff due to workforce shortages to keep it running and that's why it will close on 30 June.
- Important services and heritage on site are now at risk.
- There is just one proposal that would protect and preserve the site and replace the hospital with a key community service – the merger with the James Brown Memorial Trust/Kalyra, a not for profit charitable organisation helping older South Australians and people with a disability.
- There is NO other proposal that offers protection for the site.
- The Board emphatically rejects a proposal for a private developer to take over the site with no guarantee of any community services to be provided and no protection for current services and heritage.

Important services and heritage on site are at risk

The hospital site supports a range of other services and important local heritage including the successful Op Shop run by more than 70 volunteers who raise thousands of dollars every year to support our community, the Wellbeing GP clinic and SA Ambulance Service station, with the hospital kitchen providing meals for Meals on Wheels.

Also on site is the heritage-listed Tsong Gyiaou building which houses the radio station and a specialist service, the War Memorial Gardens, and the Avenue of Trees.

The merger with the James Brown Memorial Trust/Kalyra includes a commitment to protect and preserve all of these current services and heritage on site.

Proposal for a deal with a private developer

An alternative proposal is being promoted which places the hospital site in the hands of a private developer to be used for unspecified purposes.

The Board is emphatically opposed to this idea. Current services and heritage will be lost, and we believe that a community asset should not be used for private profit.

Next steps

The Board is considering the next steps for the hospital facility and site and will soon come back to members to provide more information.