

Rehab centre funding query

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Through the ice-action plan and the recent drug-rehabilitation plan, the government announced plans to fund 420 beds by 2020, with more than half of them to be based in regional Victoria.

Mr Foley said the Victorian Opposition had funded two residential rehabilitation beds in their four years of government.

“We are continuing to plan for a new residential rehabilitation facility for the Hume region — one which gives local residents access to better treatment, while strengthening other local services,” Mr Foley said.

“We’re also getting on with rolling out additional residential rehabilitation beds statewide to help Victorians battling addiction get the help they need.”

It is unclear when an announcement will be made.



Martin Foley



Wendy Lovell



Lift off: Community Interlink governance group chairwoman Suzanne Miller, Federal Member for Murray Damian Drum, City of Greater Shepparton Mayor Kim O’Keeffe, GV Health chief executive Trevor Saunders, community care director Gordon Ross, community care executive director Joshua Freeman, Lister House Medical Centre general practice registrar Lester Nazareth, general practice supervisor Ursula Russell and general practice registrar Nethpriya Wijethilaka at the Community Interlink launch in Shepparton.

Home-care unity

GOULBURN VALLEY HEALTH LEADER OF AUSTRALIAN FIRST PARTNERSHIP

By John Lewis

In what is believed to be an Australian first, Goulburn Valley Health is the lead agency of a new consortium of 18 health services from northern and central Victoria and southern NSW that aims to provide care at home for senior Australians.

GV Health community care director Gordon Ross said the Community Interlink consortium was being rolled out across northern Victoria and southern NSW.

It was launched in Shepparton last month.

Mr Ross said the consortium was formed after changes to Commonwealth Home Care funding in 2015 made it harder for smaller health agencies to continue providing home care.

Mr Ross said the reforms opened up the market to allow people to buy home-care packages funded through the Federal Government.

However, the reforms also mean that larger companies could step in and offer services on the open market.

He said by forming a consortium, each health service was able to provide sustainable

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Community Interlink members include: GV Health (lead agency), Euroa Health, Natalia Health, Numurkah District Health Service, Benalla Health, Seymour Health, Yarrawonga Health, Mansfield District Hospital, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Indigo North Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Beechworth Health Service, Albury Wodonga Health, Tallangatta Health Service, Nexus Primary Health, Alexandra District Hospital, Gateway Health and Kilmore and District Hospital.

home care in its own community.

“We wanted to ensure that senior members of our communities would always have access to home care services from a locally governed provider,” Mr Ross said.

“Local providers are those that can offer the highest level of support having local staff, with local knowledge and networks.”

The consortium supports about 300 home-care clients regionally, with care co-ordinated via staff employed at the various health services.

GV Health chief executive Trevor Saunders said the idea was about helping senior citizens live independently.


“This initiative is about ensuring that they receive the best care and helping them to live independently in their own home for as long as possible; if they decide that’s where they want to be,” Mr Saunders said.

Euroa Health chief executive Wayne Sullivan said knowledge was the key.

“Our knowledge of our rural community has helped us to gain a fantastic understanding of what kind of care is needed to best support our seniors,” Mr Sullivan said.

Home-care packages and services offer a range of support including meal preparation, home modifications, cleaning, transport, personal care, and medication management.

● **For more information on Community Interlink services, phone 1300 203 203 or visit communityinterlink.org.au**



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Damian Drum MP

Federal Member for Murray

Launching Wedderburn’s Donaldson Park Plans

I’ve been all over the electorate this month visiting as many people as I possibly can it was great to get over to the Loddon Shire to launch the new Donaldson Park Concept Plans. The Shire is planning to update the three older rooms to create a community hub to be used by locals.

Donaldson Park is home to a number of community groups including the football, netball, cricket and hockey clubs and the harness racing track. It is vital that locals have access to facilities that can cater to everyone and I am looking forward to the development of this great plan.



Launching the plans with Cr Cheryl McKinnon and Cr Gavin Holt

Southern Aurora gardens project – Violet Town

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the Southern Aurora train crash that killed 9 people and injured up 117 people. The site of the crash was about 900 meters out of the Violet Town town centre. This month I met with a group of locals who want to build a memorial garden next to Violet Town train station.

The group want to commemorate the work volunteers undertook to help injured people when the train crashed. This is a great idea which could see many travellers stop in to view the gardens on their journey. The group hope to have the gardens built for next year’s 50th anniversary.



Meeting with Violet Town locals at the proposed garden site

Grants Program Open

Landcare, environment and other natural resource management groups can now apply for funding to help restore our local environment in the Goulburn and Murray Valleys, under the Coalition Government’s \$5 million Environment Small Grants opportunity.

Our region is lucky to have so many beautiful areas, such as the Barmah State Forest, the Strathbogie Ranges, our creeks and rivers and of course our stunning lakes. It is important to protect and preserve all of these areas for our future generations. I strongly encourage all interested groups and organisations to apply.

Applicants have until 19 March 2018 to apply for funding of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 for each project.



Visiting Reedy Swamp with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management officials

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