

NEWS

# Health services join to provide home care

BY ELLEN EBSARY

EIGHTEEN health services from Northern Victoria and Southern NSW, including nine from our region, have joined to provide home care and stay competitive with large companies.

Goulburn Valley Health has led the way to develop Community Interlink, a consortium to provide packages to elderly people, delivered by staff working in local hospitals and services.

GVH community care director Gordon Ross said the move was prompted by reforms to home care.

"The reforms opened up the market so that people could go to anyone and purchase services, which gives people choice and power," he said.

"But we saw what would happen was that national, statewide and even international companies would take control - public health services aren't great at being in the open market.

"At Goulburn Valley Health we had about 235 community aged care packages as they were called - we were quite large - but other services had smaller numbers, and we realised they would all go out



**TOGETHER:** Goulburn Valley Health's Gordon Ross, part of the lead agency behind Community Interlink, and Albury Wodonga Health's Robyn Gillis and Lucie Shanahan. 18 services have formed to offer home care. **Picture: MARK JESSER**

of business, and probably GVH as well.

"Even though 235 seems a lot, it's not when you compare to international companies and the big church groups.

"We decided to join together and the different health services all transferred their packages to GVH and we formed, with help from a consultant, a governance group representative of those health services."

Community Interlink has been operational for a year, supporting about 300 clients directly, with Beechworth, Indigo North, Tallangatta, Yarrawonga, and Benalla health services among members.

They can offer respite, mobility assistance, transport, personal assistance and a range of services eligible across the four levels of home care packages.

Albury Wodonga Health

chief executive Leigh Mc-James was at the launch in Wodonga yesterday and said the consortium was an "outstanding initiative in the new competitive environment."

Mr Ross said he also wanted to make the process of accessing packages easier, with a lot of confusion among the general community about the reforms.

"We're trying to simplify things; you don't have to go to the My Aged Care website

if that's too hard for you, talk to us and we'll lead you through the process," he said.

"There are definitely models of consortiums and partnerships out there across health and community services, but as far as the home care space I'm not aware of anything like this.

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

## TATTS CLUE TO FINDING ACCUSED

POLICE are trying to track down a Border man covered in distinctive tattoos. Dwane Pankhurst is wanted for driving offences and assault matters.

He has the words "pure evil" tattooed on his knuckles, "king" written on his hand and three stars on the right side of his neck. Pankhurst also has the word "family" on the left side of his neck and a picture of a tiger on his right upper arm. He is known to frequent Albury and Lavington and has two warrants out for his arrest.

## LATEST DAM, RAIN FIGURES

**HUME Dam was at 53 per cent capacity on Thursday, holding 1591.4GI, at a height of 183.62m. It was 53.3 per cent on Wednesday. This time last year the dam was at 76.42 per cent. Dartmouth Dam was holding 3424.8GI at 88.8 per cent of capacity. There was no rain recorded in Albury-Wodonga for the 24 hours to 5pm Thursday. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a mostly sunny day today with an expected top of 30C.**

**Weather: P19**

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### WEATHER

TODAY	TOMORROW
Partly cloudy Min: 14°C Max: 30°C	Mostly sunny Min: 15°C Max: 34°C

### CONTACTS

The Border Mail is published six days a week and can be read online at [www.bordermail.com.au](http://www.bordermail.com.au). We welcome your inquiries on the numbers below.

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### LOTTO

Powerball (draw 1137)  
 Drawn numbers: 17, 39, 8, 24, 30 and 16. Powerball: 8.  
 Division 1: Jackpotted  
 Division 2: \$46,192.70  
 Division 3: \$6382.50  
 Division 4: \$190.20  
 Division 5: \$59.85  
 Division 6: \$37.30  
 Division 7: \$26.65  
 Division 8: \$13.15

## The Border Mail

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**REGENT CINEMAS**

**RED SPARROW** (MA15+) NFT  
 Today 12.30(RM), 3.30(RM), 6.30(RM), 9.20(RM)  
 FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL (M)  
 Today 11.30am, 4.30, 7.00  
 GAME NIGHT (MA15)  
 Today 1.45, 6.45, 9.00

**BLACK PANTHER (M) NFT**  
 Today 12.45, 3.30, 6.30, 8.30  
**LADY BIRD (M)**  
 Today 1.30, 6.45  
**FIFTY SHADES FREED (MA15+)**  
 Today 2.15, 9.15  
**THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI (MA15+)**  
 Today 11.00am, 4.00, 9.00

**WINCHESTER: THE HOUSE THAT GHOSTS BUILT (M)**  
 Today 2.15, 9.15  
**THE BBQ (PG)**  
 Today 11.45am, 2.00, 4.15, 6.30  
**THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (PG)**  
 Today 11.15am, 4.30, 9.00  
**FINDING YOUR FEET (M) NFT**  
 Today 11.00am, 4.00, 6.30

**REGENT EXOTIC**  
 BAMBINO (G) DISNEY FESTIVAL 50 TIX Sat & Sun 10.30am  
 SHOPKINS: WILD (G) SPECIAL SCREENING Sat & Sun 10.00am, 11.45am \$12 TIX

**REGENT CINEMAS GOLD CLASS** — **cofield**

**RED SPARROW (MA15+)** Today 3.15pm, 6.00pm  
**BLACK PANTHER (M)** Today 4.00pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm  
**FIFTY SHADES FREED (MA15+)** Today 9.00pm

**MONDAY NIGHT DATE NIGHT 2 GOLD CLASS TICKETS \$50**

SESSION TIMES ALSO AVAILABLE AT [WWW.REGENTCINEMAS.COM.AU](http://WWW.REGENTCINEMAS.COM.AU)

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