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PRESS RELEASE

SHEED URGES COMMUNITY TO GET BEHIND GOULBURN VALLEY HEALTH COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

Member for Shepparton Suzanna Sheed has urged the community to become involved and express their views on a vision for a redeveloped hospital. This can be done by applying for membership of the Goulburn Valley Health Community Advisory Group and by making submissions to the group.

“It is not often that a community gets an opportunity to be consulted in relation to a major infrastructure development in this way. Our health facility is one of the most important services we have in our community. It is essential that the wide range of interest groups we have across the region have the opportunity to put their views and be heard” Ms Sheed said.

Ms Sheed said the redevelopment of Goulburn Valley Health was something that our community has needed for a very long time and it was a major part of her election platform. “I have been working tirelessly with the government to progress the redevelopment and am very pleased that I have been asked to lead the consultation process by chairing the Community Advisory Group.”

Ms Sheed said that it is important to remember how large the catchment is for our major health service and that voices from across the region need to be heard in the consultation process. This is not just about Shepparton but about the wider region. It is anticipated that up to 230,000 people live within the catchment area of Goulburn Valley Health.

Ms Sheed said that she met this week with representatives from the Department and from the Minister for Health’s office to discuss the processes to establish the Community Advisory Group.

“After so many years in the wilderness I am now very pleased that this redevelopment project is on the agenda and I look forward to continuing to lobby the government for this important project” Ms Sheed said.

The advertisements seeking expressions of interest from members of the public to apply to become a member of the Community Advisory Group will appear in local media for one week starting on 5 September.

The membership of the panel will be within a range of 10-14 people. Membership will be representative of the Goulburn Valley Health catchment and will consist of individuals from the following categories:

- Patients
- Carers
- Health professionals (medical, nursing, allied health)
- Primary Care Networks
- Educator provider representative/s
- Representative(s) that are broadly representative of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community services (including a representative from the local aboriginal community)
- Hospital volunteer organisations
- Representatives from local government, trade associations and business groups.

The closing date for nominations to be submitted is 18 September 2015.

A selection panel will review applicants and create a list of recommended nominees to be forwarded to the Minister for appointment.

“I am confident that stage one of the hospital redevelopment will be funded during my first term in office and I look forward to chairing the Community Advisory Group. After years of neglect I believe we can now be confident that the needs of our health service are being recognised” Ms Sheed said.

“Our region is now well placed to have a say in how our redeveloped health facility will look. We can build on the work that has been undertaken by the Board and the Department to date to ensure that we have a modern health facility that meets the needs of our growing region for many years ahead.” Ms Sheed said.

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