

Neerim District Health Service

Our vision for 2019 – 2021

Neerim District Health Service (NDHS) provides a range of hospital, surgical, emergency stabilisation, aged and community health services to both the local district and greater Gippsland.

With ACHS Accreditation, Private Hospital Registration, Aged Care Accreditation and clinical governance based on Safer Care Victoria principles, NDHS is ideally placed to increase our contribution to healthcare in Gippsland.

We are committed to better utilisation of our current services, infrastructure and workforce expertise. This will ensure the ongoing viability of a valuable community asset, enhance our ability to partner with other health services to ease the burden on the public health system and ensure our ongoing economic contribution to the local community.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Our strategic objective over the next two years is to contribute additional value to the health system in Gippsland by:

- Undertaking additional public elective procedures on behalf of Gippsland public hospitals
- Increasing our current theatre utilisation by approximately 40% for private, DVA and fee for service patients by identifying opportunities to partner with new surgeons
- Finalise a roadmap that is designed to increase hospital bed occupancy including palliative care, post-operative rehabilitation, general medical services, withdrawal services and mental health
- Partnering with public health services to increase bed occupancy
- Ensuring access to sub-acute medical beds for longer term patients that currently occupy beds in medical wards in public hospitals as well as private and DVA patients
- Providing access to specialist consulting rooms to assist in meeting Victorian Government priorities for additional specialist consultations for rural and regional populations
- Develop a capital investment plan including an upgrade to incorporate a medical specialist consulting hub and requirements to meet the AS4187 Australian Standards for operating theatres.



BUSINESS SCOPE

As a not for profit health service receiving minimal public funding, a modest capital investment and negotiated partnerships for sub-contracted public health services will ensure that NDHS can continue to collaborate and contribute to the health and well-being of the Gippsland community by:

- Upgrading the current operating theatre to meet 2021 Australian Standards for sterilisation
- Developing Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Consultant models to support bed based palliative care services for end of life care and withdrawal services
- Building on existing partnerships with public health services to utilise sub-acute beds and alleviate the pressure on medical beds in our public hospitals
- Renovating current consultation suites to enable increased and improved facilities for Specialist medical appointments in West Gippsland
- Establishing telemedicine infrastructure to support specialist medical consultations
- Establishing theatre and day procedure speciality areas to enable increased consultation and surgical interventions.

GP ENGAGEMENT

Due to its bespoke nature, NDHS does not have salaried medical staff and relies solely on local GPs for admissions to hospital and aged care beds. Reliance on a small number of GPs to admit at NDHS is no longer considered financially sustainable.

NDHS aims to identify and plan for longer term robust and sustainable medical governance models to ensure clinical governance compliance, high-quality patient care and increased bed utilisation by:

- Partnering with a broader GP population and existing medical practitioners to develop collaborative approaches to hospital and aged care admissions
- Identifying opportunities to engage new and additional GPs to consult and admit
- Identify alternative models of patient and resident care including Nurse Practitioner models



REDESIGN COSTS

Most costs involved are a single investment including:

- \$550,000 for theatre upgrades
- \$500,000 to upgrade consultation suites to include GP clinic, specialist rooms and treatment rooms and to upgrade the emergency stabilisation facilities.



ECONOMIC AND SERVICE VALUE

Recent economic and demographic data modelling undertaken on NDHS behalf indicates the current economic value that NDHS contributes to the region is in the vicinity of \$12 million dollars in wages, supply chain and consumables.

This value does not recognise the additional contribution that almost 2,000 surgical patients and their carers bring to the community daily by accessing local services such as cafes, galleries, hotels, supermarkets and pharmacies.

The sub-contracted public surgical work that NDHS undertakes also significantly eases the pressure on public operating theatres in Gippsland.

Improved utilisation of the current services, workforce and infrastructure at NDHS will not only ensure the ongoing viability of a valuable community asset but will continue to assist in easing the burden on the public health system.