

Community Connect

Issue 2 // 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to Issue 2 of MHS Community Connect.

Caring, resilience and partnerships. These words define our staff, our health service and our community as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 situation. Despite the challenges that were brought about by the pandemic, the scale and impact to our health service has been rapidly evolving. We have all united to overcome these challenges and without this commitment to each other, the outcomes may have been so very different.

The health, wellbeing and safety of our residents, staff and community is always our priority and we are working with government to ensure a safe and efficient rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program.

As Australia's vaccination rollout continues, we commenced the local roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and we have now completed Phase 1a and 1b Pfizer and Phase 1 and 2 AstraZeneca.

The COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone in our community, so I would encourage you all to have your vaccination as it has been shown to be highly effective and helps protect both individuals and people in our community by reducing the spread of COVID-19.

We are embedded in our community and are always cognisant of our interdependence.



This was clear in the way many individuals and groups supported us, from donating support packages for our staff and residents to supplying furnishings for our refurbishment projects. What a wonderful and giving community we have!

A key change in communicating with our community was the introduction of a whole new vocabulary – 'social distancing', 'zero cases', 'attestations', 'circuit breaker' and 'QR Code', to name a few.

We've had to change the way we message with our audience to ensure clear and succinct messaging. Locally, the response to these changes has been outstanding and we thank our community for their understanding and adoption of the new vocabulary.

We look forward to working and partnering with our community as we continue through our journey of providing the best care – every person, every time.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

Jackie Kelly
CEO



New Check-in process at MHS

At most places you visit now, you are required to use a QR code to check in. This helps with contact tracing should it be needed.

At MHS we require our staff, clients and any visitors to our sites to complete an extra screening process to ensure nobody entering our site is unwell.

Please reach out to our staff if you need any help with this process.

2021 Flu Vaccination

Vaccination against influenza (flu) remains important this year and is a requirement for anyone entering our facility. We encourage everyone to get their vaccination. It's the best way to help protect you and your loved ones, so please contact your local GP, pharmacy or other immunisation provider to book your flu shot.





**Welcome a new face
Gabrielle Toscan**

The Board of Directors continues its commitment to providing services that meet the needs of our community now and into the future.

Our immense gratitude is extended to Directors, Lucy Doherty and Julieanne Crow whose term ended on 30 June this year. We thank Lucy and Julieanne for their extensive healthcare, governance and legal knowledge and experience during their time on the Board. We also thank Director Karen Foster who retired as Board Chair in February 2021 and thank Brian Densem for stepping into the role as Board Chair.

As we farewell Lucy and Julieanne, we welcome Gabrielle Toscan to the Board. Gabrielle has had a varied career across the legal and consulting industries, relocating to the South West in 2018.

As a new resident of Koroit, Gabrielle and her family are loving settling into their new town and building strong community connections.



What's happening at Koroit?

↑ **Our Social Support Group and Exercise Groups have been in full swing with sessions held from our Commercial Street site and Presbyterian Church.**

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE

Work is well underway for our new site situated at 102 Commercial Road, Koroit. The new site will provide a number of consultation rooms to deliver services such as, physiotherapy, podiatry, diabetes education, dietitian, speech therapy, district nursing consult, community care co-ordination, continence support and Care packages. A date for the opening will be determined once construction works are finalised.

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING WITH OUR KOROIT SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP!



Helen has been an active member of our Social Support Group for 5 years. Helen says that she has been coming to the group regularly and really enjoys the company, good friends and wonderful staff.

"I enjoy doing exercises, craft, card making, bingo, shopping and going out. Chris and Annemaree are really wonderful and I really like the location of our new site in the main street", Helen said.

A priority of MHS is to ensure our services are easily accessible and as such, securing a number of locations within the township was a welcome outcome whilst we await further advice from the Department of Health on the Spring Park campus located in Mill St.

STRATEGIC PLAN

We also thank the community for sharing your views and input into our Strategic Plan at a recent community forum. We loved hearing what you have to say about how we can continue to provide you with the best suite of services in the future. This is a large body of work that will steer our services into the future. It is important to acknowledge the Koroit community for all your support as we continue with this important task.