



## Seymour Health/Yea & District Memorial Hospital Voluntary Merger

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SEYMOUR HEALTH

#### Why?

- **Why is Seymour Health merging with Yea & District Memorial Hospital?**

Seymour Health and Yea & District Memorial Hospital are currently exploring the possibility of merging their management teams. Due diligence has commenced voluntarily with the view to establishing better and expanded local health services for patients, and enhancing levels of care. The merger would also give our staff better access to professional development and knowledge sharing opportunities.

The proposed merger of Yea & District Memorial Hospital and Seymour Health is a positive development for the people of Yea and Seymour. We look forward to continuing to serve both communities as a new, united health service.

- **Why should Seymour Health help out Yea & District Memorial Hospital?**

This is a win-win for both health services. The new cross-community partnership would establish better and expanded local health services and enhanced levels of care in both Yea and Seymour.

- **Will this downgrade local health services?**

The opposite. This proposed voluntary merger will enhance local services and improve patient care for the people of Yea. However, the merger is not mandatory, and DHHS will only approve it once due diligence is complete and it's clear the merger will serve the best interests of both communities.

#### What would it mean for me?

- **What would this merger mean for Seymour Health and the services offered at the hospital?**

In the short term, there would be little difference. Both organisations would fully retain their existing hospital names, services and staffing levels, and patient care would continue as usual. We see real benefits for current Seymour Health staff over the long term, with more opportunities for professional development and knowledge sharing.

- **Would there be job losses as a result of this merger?**

No. Staffing levels would remain the same.

- **What would Seymour Health be called should the merger proceed?**

It would retain its existing name.

- **Would I now have to travel to Yea to access some services?**

There would be no changes to services at Seymour. Patient care would continue as usual.

- **What would the merger practically mean for our local GPs and consultants?**

There will be no changes to routine services, however additional opportunities for shared care arrangements, information sharing and collaboration with those in Yea.

- **How would the Seymour Health Community Reference Committee fit in to the new structure?**

It's business as usual. The Community Reference Committee will continue to have an active voice in representing the interests of the community.

- **Are you consulting with the local community on the proposed merger?**

We have, and will continue keep the local community fully informed and updated on developments throughout the due diligence process. Anyone with questions relating to the proposed merger should contact Chief Executive Officer, Chris McDonnell at Seymour Health.

## **OTHER QUESTIONS**

- ***Is this merger really needed? Aren't both health services operating just fine at present?***  
Yes they are. However, this proposed merger would strengthen and better prepare both services to serve the needs of the Yea and Seymour communities, now and into the future.
- ***What approval is required?***  
The due diligence process for the proposed merger is expected to be finalised in the coming months. The proposal would require approval from the Victorian Government's Minister for Health and Human Services, Jill Hennessey MP.
- ***Why is this merger happening now?***  
We believe now is the right time to unite both management teams as it would help secure the long-term future of the Yea & District Memorial Hospital, stimulate cooperation between staff and provide opportunity for better professional development and knowledge sharing.
- ***How long could the merger process take?***  
A number of months.
- ***When would due diligence be completed?***  
The proposed merger is expected to be finalised in the coming months. All aspects are progressing as expected and we are confident this merger would offer the best solution for both health services.
- ***What happens if the merger doesn't proceed as planned?***  
Both hospitals would continue to operate as is. However, we believe a merger is very much in the best interests of both health services.
- ***Would this mean a reduction in funding?***  
No. There would be no loss of funding from the Department of Health and Human Services.
- ***What does due diligence mean?***  
The boards of both health services will undertake a comprehensive review of each other's assets and liabilities to ensure the proposed merger is in the best interests of both parties.

**ENDS**