

THE PULSE

ISSUE 7

easternhealth
GREAT HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Keeping you up to date with developments at Healesville & District Hospital and Yarra Valley Community Health



ALAN'S WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of *The Pulse*, a newsletter that keeps the Healesville and Yarra Ranges communities up to date with the latest information about Eastern Health services in the region.

It is exciting to see the \$8.8 million Healesville & District Hospital and Yarra Valley Community Health redevelopment taking shape, with much recent activity including the official commencement of works. While there have been some temporary changes during construction, we are pleased many services have remained at Healesville, including our GP clinic at Yarra Valley Community Health.

Healesville & District Hospital staff are also keeping busy, temporarily working across a number of Eastern Health sites, gaining new experiences they will bring back to Healesville.

Client and staff safety is a priority for Eastern Health. I can confirm issues with the temporary footpath at Yarra Valley Community Health have been addressed and works completed. With regard to the business case commissioned by the Save Healesville Hospital Action Group, I have contacted the group to arrange a meeting with them to discuss the report.

Our priority right now is to deliver the currently funded project on budget and on schedule. I am confident the redeveloped hospital and community health centre will deliver excellent services that meet the current and future needs of the region.

Kind regards

Alan Lilly, Eastern Health Chief Executive

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Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish taps in a surveyor's peg on the site of the new renal dialysis unit. She is pictured with representatives from the Healesville Redevelopment Liaison Group and Eastern Health.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

It's all systems go for the \$8.8 million Healesville & District Hospital and Yarra Valley Community Health Redevelopment Project, with a special event to mark the official commencement of works.



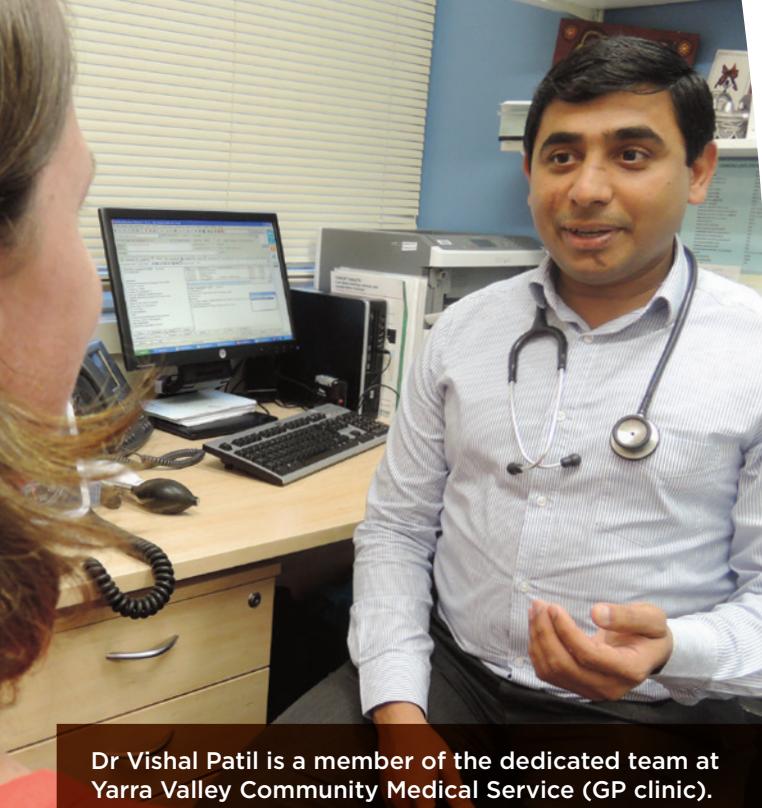
The project will deliver a range of new and improved services to the Healesville and Yarra Ranges communities, including a new renal dialysis unit and new operating theatre.

Yarra Ranges Chief of Clinical & Site Operations Lisa Lynch said it was an exciting time for healthcare in the region.

"This project demonstrates Eastern Health's strong commitment to improving services in the Yarra Ranges. With features including single and double patient rooms with ensuite bathrooms at the hospital and a new paediatric gym and consulting area at Yarra Valley Community Health to meet increased demand, I am looking forward to seeing the works progress in the months ahead."

Continued overleaf >>

2013 & 2014 Premier's Health Service of the Year



Dr Vishal Patil is a member of the dedicated team at Yarra Valley Community Medical Service (GP clinic).



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Yarra Valley Community Health remains open for business during the redevelopment works.

While it has been necessary for most hospital services to be temporarily relocated to other Eastern Health sites, Yarra Valley Community Health and Yarra Valley Community Medical Service (GP clinic), continue to operate on the hospital site.

Pathology, specialist outpatient clinics (including respiratory, cardiology and endocrinology) and antenatal and postnatal maternity services also remain in Healesville.

Yarra Valley Community Health Operations & Development Manager Michelle Fleming said she was pleased so many services had been able to stay while the redevelopment was underway.

"A number of services from our GP clinic through to our dietitians are still available in the Healesville area. Our district nurses are also still providing a great service to the local community, offering a range of specialist nursing care."

Ms Fleming said if people had any questions about the status of services which they regularly used or access to many other Eastern Health services, they should contact Yarra Valley Community Health. "We're more than happy to talk to you about the range of healthcare options we have available."



For more information or to book an appointment at the GP clinic, phone **1300 793 622** and for details about Yarra Valley Community Health and its many programs, call **1300 342 255**.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION (CONTINUED)

Eastern Health Executive Director of Corporate Projects & Sustainability Zoltan Kokai thanked the Victorian Labor Government and previous Liberal government for their strong support of the project.

"I'm pleased to announce that CICG has been contracted to build this fantastic new facility. They have successfully worked on other projects including Eastern Health's Prevention and Recovery Centre in Ringwood."

Mr Kokai also thanked the Department of Health and Human Services, Bamford Architects, Lucid Consulting Engineers, Akritidis Group Building Consultants, Johnstaff Projects and the local community for helping to make the project a reality.

The project is due to be completed in early 2017.



SKILLS BONUS FOR STAFF

Hospital staff will bring new skills and experiences back to Healesville & District Hospital when the redevelopment is complete.



Nurse Unit Manager Chris Wittkopp and nurse Sarah Hazell are using the redevelopment as an opportunity to boost their skills.

With works well and truly underway, Healesville staff are working across a range of Eastern Health facilities in a number of different roles.

Among those who have seized the opportunity to work at another site is nurse Sarah Hazell, who is currently at Angliss Hospital. *"I'm hoping to bring new skills and experiences I learn at the Angliss back to Healesville and maybe teach them a thing or two as well."*

Yarra Ranges Chief of Clinical & Site Operations Lisa Lynch said that by providing staff with the opportunity to work in a number of roles across Eastern Health, an important step had been taken in ensuring improved patient care at Healesville & District Hospital.

"Staff are getting the opportunity to diversify their skill set and gain some valuable experiences, which they can then bring back to the Healesville community. It's a win-win for everyone."