

2 October 2019

## Disability Advisory Group Meetings

Following community consultation to develop a Disability Action Plan, local services will hold the first Disability Advisory Group meeting in October. Northern District Community Health, Cohuna District Hospital, Gannawarra Shire Council and Kerang District Health are working together on the groups. The advisory groups were planned to engage people with a disability or caring for someone with a disability. The groups will help inform planning and services across all agencies to ensure safety and responsiveness to people living with a disability.

“The experience of people either living with a disability or caring for someone with a disability is so important for all health and community services,” NDCH CEO Mandy Hutchinson said. “That the four biggest health and community service agencies in the Gannawarra Shire partnered to make this happen shows how committed we all are to safe, quality services and supports for people living with disability.”

The advisory groups are planned to take place every three month’s for the first six months. Then, a review involving participants for ongoing meetings will take place to make sure everyone is heard and getting what they need from the meetings. Funding has been applied for across the Shire with the support of other agencies and community groups that would help support local disability groups, including the advisory groups.

“The advisory groups help us tap into community networks that have not yet been heard from but whose voices are extremely important across the broader health service area,” Cohuna District Hospital CEO Ben Maw said. “They give the community local people and services to communicate and share information that impacts on the wellbeing of people with disabilities and their carers.”

The Disability Advisory Group meeting/s will take place:

### **KERANG**

NDCH Board Room  
24 Fitzroy Street, Kerang  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October – 12.00pm – 2.00pm

### **COHUNA**

NDCH Activity Room  
33 King Edward Street, Cohuna  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – 10.00am – 12.00pm

Anybody who would like to attend or would like to be included for future communications, can call NDCH on 5451 0200, or can register at [www.ndch.org.au](http://www.ndch.org.au) by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Or you can just drop in to one of our offices and register your interest. Please let us know if you have any support needs to attend the meetings and dietary requirements as a light meal will be provided.

People who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impediment, can contact us through the National Relay Service.

**TTY Users:** phone 133 677 then ask for 03 5451 0200 (Kerang)

**Speak & Listen (Speech to Speech) Users:** phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 5451 0200 (Kerang)

**Internet Relay Users:** connect NRS at [www.iprelay.com.au](http://www.iprelay.com.au), then enter 03 5451 0200 (Kerang)

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