# **ECHO**



**Health Service** 

# EAST GRAMPIANS HEALTH SERVICE



# **CE Report**

Following a review of the Victorian Public Health system, the Victorian Government has committed to the EGHS board and all other health service boards across Victoria not to force amalgamations and mergers. This allows local decisionmaking to continue through the local board, supported by a stronger integration of health services by establishing networks.

The Victorian Government recently established these networks. We are in the Grampians Network. The health services included are Ballarat Base Hospital and health services that refer patients to Ballarat. We have been in this group as a partnership for many years. The support we provide each other is significant, and these patients we have referred to the we have a strong partnership.

The network's focus will be on improving some of our systems. Key to this will be implementing a much-needed electronic medical record, shared payroll systems and greater integration of our purchasing systems. We will work through the details We are very optimistic about this as they become available.

As part of the review, the Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that patients get care as close to home as possible. This is great for our patients and The new year has commenced very community.

The Victorian Government will need to continue to invest in rural health services to deliver more care in their health services. On occasions, the large health services in the metropolitan and regional health services are overwhelmed with demand in some of their service areas, leading to patients waiting too long for care. Some of

larger centres for care. In the future, the patients will hopefully be able to be treated here.

development and look forward to the opportunities it will create.

quickly. We have had new cohorts of junior medical officers, graduate nurses and medical and dental students start at the health service.

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CE Report cont.

It is an excellent time of year to be involved with these young people beginning in their chosen careers. It is very pleasing that they have decided to come to East Grampians Health Service.

Our board, visiting medical officers and staff are very committed to East Grampians Health Service being a teaching health service. The young people who have started with us can learn a lot from the very skilled visiting medical officers and staff we have. We may not have the volume of

patients or the acuity, but the young people will learn a lot in a supportive, diverse environment.

Many of our staff have come through the health service's onsite training or as students on placement here and have returned. Our staff know this and contribute significantly to young people's learning. I enjoy reading evaluations where our visiting officers and staff have made a meaningful impact on people's careers. Many often keep in contact with them as they may work elsewhere. Friendships have been gained and maintained. A very enjoyable part of my role.

# **ONCOLOGY UNIT TO MARK 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

# JODIE HOLWELL COMMUNITY LIAISON

The East Grampians Health Service Oncology Unit will mark 20 years of service to the Ararat and wider community in February.

The Oncology Unit will mark its 20th birthday with an afternoon tea this Wednesday February 12 at 3pm with an invitation extended to anyone who has been involved with the Unit over the past 20 years, including patients, volunteers, donors and past staff.

More than 20 years ago, a need for oncology services locally was identified to allow people diagnosed with cancer to receive treatment closer to home without having to travel and stay in larger centres, causing even greater disruption to their lives.

In 2004 Professor George Kannourakis from Ballarat Oncology and Haematology was approached to provide an Oncology treatment and outpatient service to the Ararat community and surrounding district.

In January 2005, thanks to generous donations from the community and funding, a fully equipped eight chair, day oncology unit was established in the south end of first floor (now the Dialysis Unit.)

Dr Craig Carden joined the department in 2011, initially working with Dr Kannourakis and then as of 2013 as the unit's oncologist. He continues to consult here on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month.

Haematologist, Dr Pohan Lukito joined the team in 2019 consulting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month alternating with Dr Carden. His clinic has now increased to the first three Wednesdays of the month, with Dr Carden and Dr Lukito both consulting on the second Wednesday. Both public and private patients can be treated at EGHS.

As part of refurbishment of the hospital, the department was relocated in May 2013 to the north end of first floor into a purpose designed facility where it remains today. The unit is staffed by a team of oncology accredited Registered Nurses.

The Ararat community has been enormously supportive of the Oncology Unit and continues to raise funds which allows the Unit to update equipment and provide a welcoming environment, staffed with qualified professionals who provide that personal touch.

The volunteers also provided great support to the department over the years, which was appreciated by patients during their treatment.

"We would love anyone who has had any involvement with the Oncology Unit to attend the 20th birthday afternoon tea," EGHS chief executive Nick Bush said.



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### **EMPLOYMENT MILESTONE**

# JODIE HOLWELL COMMUNITY LIAISON

East Grampians Health Service reached an employment milestone late last year, now employing more than 600 staff, the most in the history of the health service.

East Grampians Health Service has a range of exciting employment and career development opportunities.

We seek to employ health specialists in a variety of areas, including medical imaging, midwifery, registered and enrolled nursing as well as in the allied health fields of podiatry, dietetics, occupational therapy, dental and physiotherapy. We also employ professionals from diverse backgrounds for our support and executive services departments such as catering, environmental services, maintenance, finance, human resources and many others.

East Grampians Health Service is committed to having a diverse and inclusive workforce.

If you are interested in working for EGHS, head to our website to check out the current employment vacancies: eghs.net.au









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### **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING NEWS**

This month we will start a regular column from the Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing (OHS&W) Committee. Committee representatives will share positive news stories on OHS&W matters in their area that have been resolved through innovative thinking.

### **Garden View Court**

An incident report was logged from Garden View Court (GVC) about a resident falling in their bathroom. The reporter described difficulties getting the resident out of the bathroom as the available lifter was too large to maneuver around the doorway

While the GVC staff were able to safely help the resident out of the bathroom, it sparked further conversation about how to make this process easier for all.

The Supply Department identified a smaller lifter that could be more suitable to maneuver in and out of small spaces like bathrooms. The smaller lifter was trialed and nursing staff were impressed with the lifter and its benefits.

After the trial, following approval and purchase, the lifter has now been in operation at GVC for five months. This was an excellent OHS&S outcome for nursing staff and residents.





### **STARRLITE**

### **ELLA OTTREY - WESTERN ALLIANCE RESEARCH TRANSLATION COORDINATOR**

The Western Alliance team is excited to announce that STaRRlite is returning in early 2025.

STaRRlite is a free, half-day research workshop, held online, and open to staff from all Western Alliance member organisations, including EGHS. It is ideal for clinicians, program staff and managers with little or no research experience, to gain foundational knowledge and skills to begin health research or quality improvement projects.

Two dates will be offered in 2025, Feb 25th and Mar 12th. Workshop participant numbers will be capped, so please register early for your preferred date.

Please see flyer attached, and for further information, please contact Ella Ottrey, Western Alliance Research Translation Coordinator (ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au), Michele Conlin, DELIVER Research Translation Coordinator (michele.conlin@eghs.net.au), Jake Romein, Research Assistant (jake.romein@eghs.net.au), or STaRR Support (starrsupport@deakin.edu.au).



# An online introductory research workshop for people working in health services across western Victoria

### STARRIIte is

- A half-day online research workshop open to EGHS staff
- •Designed for health practitioners (including clinicians, program staff & managers) with little or no previous research or quality improvement experience
- •Ideal for practitioners who want to gain foundational knowledge & skills to begin health research or quality improvement projects, or leaders who want to support their team member(s) to do so

Dates: Two STaRRlite workshops will be held in early 2025

- Tue 25 Feb (gam-12:30pm)
- Wed 12 March (gam-12:30pm)

Cost: Free (Western Alliance covers the workshop costs)

**Registration:** Places are limited, so register early for your preferred workshop date <u>HERE</u> or scan the QR code.

Info: <u>STaRR training website</u> or contact Olivia & Peter via <u>starrsupport@deakin.edu.au</u>







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# EGHS WELCOMES NEW DEAKIN LECTURER

# JODIE HOLWELL COMMUNITY LIAISON

Deakin University has announced the appointment of Dr Eslam Ahmed to the role of lecturer in Medical Science for the first and second year Rural Training Stream program in Ararat.

Dr Ahmed has recently completed his PhD at the School of Medicine with a focus on neuroanatomy.

He also has over twelve years' teaching experience both at Deakin with the Anatomy and Pathology team and overseas.

Currently Dr Ahmed also holds a Research Fellow role with the IMPACT TRIALS team.

Dr Ahmed has recently moved to Ballarat from Geelong to be closer to Ararat, where he will be teaching Anatomy and Pathology three days a week for the Ararat cohort of MD students.

"We welcome Dr Ahmed to the East Grampians Health Service community," EGHS chief executive Nick Bush said.

"We are pleased with the success of the first year MD program last year at Ararat and have welcomed the students back for their second year, as well as our new first year cohort in 2025."



# AN ARRESTING SITUATION FOR NICK!

At the EGHS second floor Christmas afternoon tea, young Harry Carey donned Macca the Bear's Police Blue Ribbon uniform and proceeded to handcuff Chief Executive Nick Bush – a very cute moment which caused great hilarity among staff!



COMPLETE YOUR ANNUAL FIT TEST AND GET A

SWEET TREAT!

RECEIVE A LOLLIPOP WITH EVERY FIT TEST.

BIANCA ROCHE

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT & RESPIRATOR PROGRAM

FIT TESTER



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## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO STUDY MEDICINE IN ARARAT?**

Would you like to study medicine in Ararat in 2026?

Deakin University will host an information session for its Doctor of Medicine Rural Training Stream in Ararat on Wednesday March 26

To register, or for further information: https://www.deakin.edu.au/student-life-and-services/events/doctor-of-medicine-rural-training-stream-information-sessions?fbclid=IwY2xjawII-

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# WOULD YOU LIKE TO STUDY MEDICINE IN ARARAT?

Deakin University will host an information session for its Doctor of Medicine Rural Training Stream for all potential students for its 2026 cohort.

Wednesday March 26 2025 6pm-7pm Pyrenees House Girdlestone Street, Ararat



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# HEALTH SERVICE RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION FROM GJ GARDNER HOMES COMMUNITY GROWTH PROGRAM

# JODIE HOLWELL COMMUNITY LIAISON

G J Gardner Homes Ararat has donated to East Grampians Health Service through its Community Growth Program.

New Homes Consultant Shae Solomon presented a cheque for \$382 to EGHS community liaison officer Jodie Holwell, on behalf of their client.

Ms Solomon said clients who build with G J Gardner Homes have the option to sign up for the Community Growth Program, nominating their preferred local club, charity, school, kindergarten or not-for-profit organisation, with G J Gardner Homes contributing 0.1% of the contract price to the nominated charity.

"G J Gardner Homes prides itself on being part of the local community and through the Community Growth Program shows its appreciation by giving back to the locals who support us," she said.

EGHS chief executive Nick Bush thanked G J Gardner Homes and their client for their generosity.

"Funds donated will go towards equipment and services to benefit our patients and consumers," Mr Bush said.

"We are grateful for the support of G J Gardner Homes and their Community Growth Program. The support of our community and generosity of local businesses enables us to continue to provide quality care to our community."



### COMMUNITY OP SHOP DONATES TO ONCOLOGY UNIT

### JODIE HOLWELL COMMUNITY LIAISON

The Ararat Community Op Shop recently donated \$500 to the East Grampians Health Service Oncology Unit

Manager of the shop Mary Te Whare and longtime volunteer Wendy Anderson visited the Oncology Unit to make the presentation. The Community Op Shop donates to various charities in Ararat each year.

Thank you to the Community Op Shop for your generous support, funds donated will go towards equipment and furnishings to benefit our patients.



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# WILLAURA MARKET ATTRACTS OVER 60 STALLHOLDERS JODIE HOLWELL

**COMMUNITY LIAISON** 

Willaura is set to welcome the annual Willaura Health Care Outdoor Market on Sunday March 2.

The event will run from 10am till 2pm, and organisers expect over 60 stallholders to attend.

Despite a tough farming season, and the Yarram Gap fires that impacted parts of the district, the Auxiliary is hoping plenty of people turn up to support the residents and staff of Willaura Health Care.

"We will be well and truly 'open for business' and are very much looking forward to seeing lots of locals and visitors alike descend on our town," president of the Willaura Health Care Auxiliary Heather Fleming said.

The market's boutique stalls will include homewares, plants, flowers, produce such as nuts, preserves, fruit and honey, jewellery, artwork, craft, bags, clothing, plus gourmet foods including nachos and potato spirals, Greek and Korean food, dumplings, kebabs, the Lions barbecue, icecream and coffee trucks

A gold coin donation is all that's required for visitors to enter the market and enjoy what's on offer on what is a great family day out.

"Not only will we have stalls packed with homemade and home-grown goods, there will also be musical entertainment by popular local band SOFT and displays of vintage cars from the Grampians Vintage Vehicle Club. A 'must' will be the Auxiliary produce stall, full of home baked goodies, jams, relishes and produce," Mrs Fleming said.

There will also be a jumping castle, face painter and paintball for the children, plus displays from Ambulance Victoria, the CFA and Blazeaid.

Over the past 19 years the Market has raised more than \$100,000 for Willaura Health Care, which includes Parkland House Hostel. Items funded have included new furnishings and fittings, equipment, and activities and outings for residents. These have all enhanced the lives of the residents and patients, and helped make the facility one that continues to provide excellent support for all in its care.



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# WILLAURA HEALTH CARE OUTDOOR MARKET

**Sunday March 2 2025, 10am-2pm** 

Willaura Recreation Reserve, Delacombe Way



The Willaura Market is a charity event run by the Willaura Health Care Auxiliary, with funds raised going towards improving the lives of residents and patients at Willaura Health Care, East Grampians Health Service.

This boutique country market offers goods from local and regional artisans and is set in Willaura, surrounded by fertile farmland, which lies 34 kilometres south of Ararat on the south-eastern edge of the Grampians in Victoria's Western District.

### Local producers and local artisans:

- Homewares
- Cards
- Jewellery
- Giftware
- Clothing for babies, children and adults
- Plants
- Gourmet Foods

### Variety of food vendors including:

- · Gourmet food
- Lions barbecue
- Coffee
- Icecream

Childrens entertainment, musical entertainment and raffle.

For more information: willauramarket.com



Visit: https://shorturl.at/KEanY

We thank the following sponsors of the market:











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### THANKS FROM WILLAURA STAFF

### **KYLIE RITCHIE - REGISTERED NURSE - WILLAURA**

Following the Christmas night evacuation of residents, patients and staff from Willaura Health Care, nurse Kylie Ritchie provided this thank you letter to Chief executive Nick Bush and all staff involved in the operation:

Tobey (Muscat) and I wish to send out a heartfelt appreciation for the assistance and support we received in evacuating Willaura on Wednesday night, being Christmas Day and the dedication of all the responding people to leave their families and celebrations.

If it wasn't for the prompt response from Bart (James) and the others, we wouldn't have been able to ensure the safety of all the residents and patients during this stressful and unpredictable time.

To IPU, they welcomed us and ensured a smooth transition of all the patients and residents into their rooms. The entire evacuation and admission process into IPU was seamless, with every staff member working in collaboration and unity. All IPU staff have welcomed us with open arms and have ensured that we have the space to conduct our duties alongside them.

To the support service staff, who ensured all the patients and residents were fed and catered for.

To the staff that ensured I was taken care of with emergency accommodation and a vehicle having left mine behind in Willaura to ensure that I could travel with our dementia patients and those who required further reassurance.

If you are able to pass this message on to all staff, we would be greatly appreciative.



MONDAY 3RD MARCH 9:30AM - 3:00PM WILLAURA - FAMILY ROOM





EMAIL FITTEST@EGHS.NET.AU
TO SECURE A SPOT

# **EGHS STAFF FITNESS**

### **KELLY RYAN - EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGIST**

Join us every Tuesday from 5:15 PM – 6:15 PM for staff fitness! This weekly session is free and welcomes all fitness levels and is a great way to improve your health and well-being. Some weeks, we'll mix it up with modified sports, including:

- Indoor activities at the Ararat Fitness Centre (during winter months)
- Outdoor activities like Pilates (in warmer months)

Why Join?

Exercise boosts your health by strengthening muscles and bones, reducing the risk of chronic conditions, and enhancing mood and cognitive function.

We create a warm and inviting atmosphere for all staff to feel comfortable and have fun.

Stay updated on activities and last-minute changes by joining our EGHS Staff Fitness Facebook group.

CHC gym = Community Health Centre Gym Ararat Fitness Centre: 61-73 High Street, Ararat

Please click the link to join:

<u> Ararat Fitness Centre : 61-73 High Street, Ararat</u>

Please click the link to join: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ 272393883425954

February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bootcamp	СНС
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Pool Volleyball *Later start time, please see Facebook group for confirmation	AFC
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Strength & Endurance	СНС
February 25th	Boxing	CHC

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### **PARKLANDS PURSUITS**

# MICHELLE MASLEN, PAM WHEELER AND JOSIE HICKEY LIFESTYLE COORDINATORS

Residents had a great month in January with Australia Day. The residents had a BBQ and many Aussie games and puzzles. Michael & Keith have been a regular playing Country Music. Residents had outings to Stawell to the Gift Hotel where the lunch was great, then we toured around Great Western and stopped at Grampians Estate to have a coffee.

There has been great competition with Bob Bowls and Balloon Tennis. Also carpet bowls has been a hit and some of the families have been showing interest to play with their family member.

We went to Dunkeld before the fires and had pastries in the botanic gardens under the shade of an oak tree. Residents had Kentucky fried chicken as a favourite choice for their meal which they all enjoyed.

In February we will have a High tea for Valentines Day.

Staff will be introducing 'Paddock to plate', a cooking experience to enhance their knowledge of where all the food comes from and then cooking it.

We will have a visit to the Pastoral Museum in Hamilton for the blokes and ladies.

We are all looking forward to the bountiful produce one of our residents is growing in the garden, tomatoes, rhubarb and capsicums, along with parsley, thyme and marjoram.











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# **WELCOME NEW EGHS STAFF**

ROS BLOOMFIELD, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

### AMANDA BAKER **REGISTERED NURSE - DIALYSIS** ALL ABOUT ME...

Favourite AFL Team | Richmond Tigers

Favourite Food | Italian, Indian, Asian & Seafood Favourite Music | Aussie Rock 1970s & 1980s

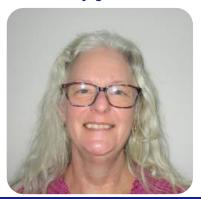
Interests | Travelling in our caravan, gardening,

hiking, swimming, craft

One thing I'm Good at | Gardening

One thing I want to do in this lifetime | Spend as much

time as possible with my grandchildren



### JOSE CHONG MEDICAL INTERN 2025 **ALL ABOUT ME...**

Favourite Food | Pasta, Pizza, Sushi

Favourite Music | 2010s pop

Interests | Piano, mixed martial arts, all things Favourite Music | Pop

nerdy:)

One thing I'm Good at | Piano, martial arts,

singing (hopefully!)

One thing I want to do in this lifetime | Live in

another country for a year



### ROSE CERDENA HEALTH CARE WORKER ALL ABOUT ME...

Favourite AFL Team | Geelong Cats Favourite Food | Rib eye steak Favourite Music | 60s, 70s, 80s Interests | Gardening, scrapbooking, crafts One thing I'm Good at | Singing One thing I want to do in this lifetime | Play music, travel cruising, long drive



### KIRSTY CONRICK-GILLETT GRADUATE REGISTERED NURSE ALL ABOUT ME...

Favourite AFL Team | Hawthorn

Favourite Food | Fish & Chips

Interests | Travel and reading fantasy novels

One thing I'm Good at | Organising holidays

One thing I want to do in this lifetime | Travel

the world



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# **WELCOME NEW EGHS STAFF**

**ROS BLOOMFIELD, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER** 

### CHLOE GORNALLE ANACC COORDINATOR

ALL ABOUT ME...

Favourite AFL Team | Western Bulldogs

Favourite Food | Italian

Favourite Music | Classical

Interests | Reading

One thing I'm Good at | Cooking

One thing I want to do in this lifetime | Go to Scotland

### GABRIEL HICKS VRGP MEDICAL INTERN **ALL ABOUT ME...**

Favourite AFL Team | Geelong Favourite Food | Mexican

Favourite Music | Alternative Rock

Interests | Running & Fitness, Music

One thing I'm Good at | Writing notes really fast whilst running after consultants

One thing I want to do in this lifetime | Work in remote Australia



### ROHAN KARIA RADIOLOGIST **ALL ABOUT ME...**

Favourite Food | Italian

Favourite Music | Varied

Interests | Science, Gaming, Bushwalking

One thing I'm Good at | Chess

One thing I want to do in this lifetime | Travel to One thing I'm Good at | Netball

space



### AMELIA KELLY CATERING ASSISTANT ALL ABOUT ME...

Favourite AFL Team | Richmond

Favourite Food | Nuggets

Favourite Music | Billy Eilish

Interests | Netball

One thing I want to do in this lifetime | Travel





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### THE SEASON KICKS OFF ON 6TH MARCH 2025

- Download the ESPN App
- Tip via your mobile device
- · Invite your family and friends
- \$25 entry fee complete a payroll deduction form



PASSWORD: EGHS2025

For further information contact Jo Summers



🙆 ja.summers@eghs.net.au



East Grampians Health Service

Carer Support Program

# **February** E learning

BloodSafe: **Clinical Transfusion** 

**Practice & PPH** 



### Go to your e learning account

Click on your Bloodsafe courses to see if any are now due



### Complete your e learning

Prior to the due date



# INSERT TEXT What more can you do?

February is Blood Donor month. Please consider giving blood

**BLOOD DONOR MONTH: FEBRUARY 2025** 



# **FESTIVE FACEOFF COMPETITION 2024**



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# **FESTIVE FACEOFF COMPETITION 2024**

























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# **CHRISTMAS AT 70 LOWE STREETS**

WENDY DUMESNY RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR - 70 LOWE STREET

Christmas is a time for family and friendship. At 70 Lowe Street we celebrate together, one long table, the whole 70 Lowe Street family.

We were joined by other family members and of course the big man himself, Santa, even stopped by. The day was fill with laughter and reminiscing and all enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch.

Thanks to all the staff and the catering department for helping to make Christmas a family affair.

















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# FRIENDSHIPS FORMED BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD

WENDY DUMESNY RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR - 70 LOWE STREET

Grandfriends is a program that has been running throughout the year with children from Ararat Early Learning Centre and Ararat Village Early Learning Centre.

70 Lowe Street enjoyed visits from both kindergartens fortnightly meaning each week our residents could look forward to having some fun with the children.

Residents were privileged to attend both graduations and received a book the children Ararat Village Early Learning Centre presented them full of photos and memories I know we will cherish for many years.













East Grampians Health Service Girdlestone Street, Ararat VIC 3377 Phone. 5352 9300

Fax. 5352 9333

The Echo is published on the 4th Friday of the month. The deadline for submissions of articles is the Tuesday prior. The ECHO Editor is Lisa Nolen. Information can be sent through, preferably by email, to lisa.nolen@eghs.net.au. Printed copies of the ECHO are distributed to IPU, Theatre, 70 Lowe Street, GVC, Day Centre and the Cafeteria. The ECHO is sent via email to all staff, Board of Management, Ararat Medical Centre, Ararat Psych Services as well as the staff at the Ararat Ambulance Station.

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