



MORELAND COMMUNITY HEALTH BECOMES MERRI

Moreland Community Health Service will change its name to Merri Community Health Services Ltd on 30th April 2009.

MCHS Chief Executive Officer, Philip Moran said that MCHS members had voted in favour of the change of name at the Annual General Meeting last year but the service had waited for final legal changes to be completed before the new name was introduced.

"The word Moreland in our name no longer reflects who we are – or even the community we serve," Mr. Moran said.

Many of our services are specific to the Moreland area but we also service the whole of the Northern Region with a range of programs and activities.

"As a service provider we are often confused with the Moreland City Council. This new name will help to overcome this problem.

"We also wanted a new name to promote the fact that we are a broadly based organisation serving a larger area. Even so, we did not want to forget nor separate totally from our historical and geographic roots. Merri Community Health Services Ltd is named after the Merri Creek, a prominent landmark in the local area central to the community we serve," he said.

The Merri Creek is a popular and defining feature of the local landscape. It represents many different things to different people. It has Aboriginal origins in that the creek borrows its name from the phrase *Wurundjeri-wallen*, meaning "very rocky".

"We wanted a name that had a solid message, one that was historical and represented the local area. We liked the link between the river and a holistic life force image."

Board of Directors Chairperson, Ms Katerina Angelopoulos, said that last year MCHS members also decided to change the service's legal status to a company limited by guarantee, in line with similar changes made by other community health services around Victoria. This new status involved an amendment to an Act of Parliament. MCHS is now in a better position to seek new funding and services while protecting the current Government supported programs and the entitlements of staff.

Ms Angelopoulos went on to say; "The new legal status will have no effect on how our services are delivered, but it will involve some changes to our governance status. Our existing Board looks forward to meeting the governance challenges that come with the move to a company limited by guarantee. We are absolutely committed to continuing the health and wellbeing of our community under these new arrangements.

"Further the cost of rebranding has been very low, we have been running stationery and other supplies down over time and will now replace these items with the new style within existing budgets," Ms Angelopoulos said.

"We will also move to using electronic stationery templates where possible, as other organizations now do. By keeping our initials consistent, there has been no need to change web or email addresses," she said.

Merri Community Health Services Ltd operates across and beyond the Moreland region with sites offering differing services in Brunswick, Coburg, Glenroy, Fawkner and Preston.

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