



Media Release

Tender process underway for improved dental facilities in Boort

Boort District Health (BDH) has embarked on an open tender process for construction of new dental facilities, co-located within the main healthcare complex. In the interim, until works are completed the Boort Dental Clinic will continue to operate as normal, offering dental services to both public and private patients in the existing facility adjacent to the Boort Medical Clinic.

Earlier this year Boort District Health received \$992,691 through the Victorian State Government's *Regional Health Infrastructure Fund* to enable relocation of Boort Dental Clinic. Welcoming the announcement, Dr Darren Clarke, CEO Boort District Health, stated that *"relocation of our existing dental clinic into a refurbished area on the main hospital site compliments other redevelopment and refurbishment works undertaken in recent years at Boort District Health, enabling co-location and integration of health services. This further enhances our ability to provide more coordinated and streamlined holistic health care."*

"Working collaboratively in partnership with other health care providers, the new facilities enable provision of additional services at BDH. Relocating the current dental practice under the "same roof" as the other services creates opportunities for multidisciplinary team work and allows further efficiencies to be realised through sharing of resources. In addition to new dental facilities, two multi-purpose consultation rooms will be constructed within the refurbished clinical area enabling further consolidation of local health service provision."

Tenders opened on 14 September 2018 and close at 3:00 pm AEDST on 8 October 2018, with building works, due to commence later this year, undertaken over a two-stage process. Documentation for the tender can be obtained by registering via www.tenders.vic.gov.au and accessing the portal under the Boort District Health Renovations – BOORT 002/2018.

Works incorporate refurbishment of existing administration areas to accommodate the relocation of the dental clinic. As office spaces within the main BDH building will be impacted by the proposed works, administration staff will reoccupy an existing area within the original hospital building, adjacent to the Day Centre, which only requires minimal refurbishment. This forms the first stage of the project and once completed it will enable works to commence on the second stage, construction of the new dental and associated facilities, early in 2019. The entire project is due to be completed by May 2019.

BDH Board Chair, Mrs Wendy Gladman, stated that *"the Board has a strong commitment to improving the facilities at BDH to enhance accessibility, privacy and consistently provide a safe, comfortable environment for patients whilst ensuring an efficient, safe and inclusive work environment for staff. The new facilities will expand our dental service capacity from a single dental chair to two dental chairs, enhancing workflow between patients, providing better*

privacy and increasing overall operational efficiency. This significantly improves access to oral and primary health services for people living in and around Boort. ”

The Loddon Shire is rated amongst the lowest on socio economic indicators in Victoria for poor oral health. Boort District Health provides the only public dental service in the Loddon Shire. Timely access to public general dental care helps people stay healthy as oral health is an essential part of general health. Poor oral health can impact on the management of other chronic diseases. Oral diseases are among the most prevalent chronic diseases in Australia, and account for one of the highest rates of preventable hospitalisation.

Looking forward to utilising the new facilities, BDH Dentist, Dr Manoj Mogilisetty, indicated that *“patient experience will be improved through a more spacious, contemporary facility. Parents, for example, will now be able to sit comfortably in a dental treatment room while their children receive dental treatments. There will be much better provision for mobility-impaired or disabled patients and bariatric patients. Installation of an OPG Machine will enable improved efficiencies with x-rays, allowing many related treatments to be conducted on site on the same day.”*

Attached images – Architect drawings new waiting area

ENDS

Mrs Wendy Gladman
Board Chair

Dr Darren Clarke
Chief Executive Officer

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Architect drawings - New Waiting Area (Boort Dental Clinic)



