



**KYABRAM DISTRICT**  
HEALTH SERVICE

**Media Release**  
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**Kyabram District Health Service transitions to public pathology service to strengthen regional connections**

Kyabram District Health Service is transitioning to a public pathology service to strengthen its connection to the surrounding regional healthcare network.

On Sunday 15 November 2020 the contract with its current pathologist ACL ends and Kyabram District Health Service will move its pathology services to public health provider Austin Health Pathology.

Kyabram District Health Service Acting CEO Greg Pullen said an integrated network of public pathology providers will provide greater flexibility and enable better regional connections to enhance patient care.

“ACL has served us well for many years, however as a public health provider, it makes sense for Kyabram District Health Service to be better connected to the regional healthcare network by moving to a public pathology service,” Mr Pullen said.

“The transition will enable Kyabram to benefit from strategic state-wide public pathology service planning which will enhance system responsiveness, sustainability and optimise patient outcomes,” Mr Pullen said.

Moving to the same model as surrounding hospitals such as Castlemaine Health, the expansion of public pathology services in the Loddon Mallee region will ensure there is a sustainable and stable long-term investment in pathology services and new equipment and technologies to meet the needs of rural Victorian communities.

Austin Health Pathology Director Nick Crinis said Austin Health was going to draw on the effective model that has worked successfully in other parts of Victoria such as at Castlemaine.

“Austin Health Pathology currently provides pathology services to a number of regional communities and we look forward to offering the same high-quality service to patients at Kyabram District Health Service and in the surrounding area,” Mr Crinis said.

Castlemaine Health CEO Ian Fisher said its recent transition to Austin Health Pathology was implemented smoothly and has been well received by their visiting medical officers and clinical staff.

“We believe that our relationship with Austin Health Pathology has added further support to our pursuit of exceptional care of every person, every time,” Mr Fisher said.

All point-of-care testing will be performed and diagnosed locally to ensure efficient delivery and a prompt service to patients.

Through Austin Health Pathology, Kyabram will be able to access an extensive inpatient and outpatient pathology service that is customised to meet local community needs.

Furthermore, as part of the transition Austin Health Pathology will be talking to current ACL staff about ongoing employment opportunities at Kyabram.

Mr Pullen said the transition to Austin Health Pathology will not impact current care and it will be business as usual across the health service throughout the process.

#### **ABOUT KYABRAM DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICE**

Kyabram District Health Service provides an integrated range of acute, subacute, residential aged care and allied & primary health care services. Kyabram District Health Service has been providing services to the community since 1933. The Loddon Mallee Region is one of eight Department of Health regions, covering north western Victoria bounded by the South Australian border to the north west; the Murray River to the north and the Macedon Ranges to the south east.

#### **ABOUT AUSTIN HEALTH PATHOLOGY**

Austin Health Pathology offers a comprehensive Pathology service to public hospitals, community GP and Consultant medical practices. Based in Victoria, they are committed to the provision of high quality, comprehensive, evidence based pathology services in a timely, cost effective and ethical manner, to meet the needs of their customers.