

SPEECH FOR LAUNCH OF PARTNERSHIPS AGREEMENT

On behalf of the Southern Grampians/Glenelg Primary Care Partnership (SGGPCP) in my role as Chair I welcome you all to this evening's event where we celebrate the official launch of the Partnership Agreement and new PCP Office (located in Gray Street Hamilton) one year on.

In 2008 there has been further significant development of the SGGPCP. As a result of the strategic planning processes that have taken place over the past two years a new vision has been established for the PCP. This vision formally gives permission for the PCP to engage broadly with a range of sectors and agencies to achieve positive health outcomes in a range of areas. However as we all would be well aware the SGGPCP is already working in a number of areas to address key issues impacting on local communities such as providing leadership in the area of climate change and drought.

The development of the Partnership Agreement has been a major step forward acknowledging the strength of the PCP in showing officially *the cutting of the apron strings* from the original form of the SGGPCP in 2000 as was directed by the Victorian Government through the Department of Human Services as a key primary care reform strategy. What the Agreement reflects now formally is the way in which the PCP works within the communities of Southern Grampians and Glenelg. No longer reflecting an equity share approach in the partnership the PCP partners (not members) operate in an environment where they have a strong understanding of what is understood by partnership. It also reflects an increase in capacity offered by the PCP through consulting services so as to provide additional resources to partners to achieve more effective processes in the area of strategic planning, project development and research.

Our new Partnership Agreement provides an ideal platform for the PCP to move ahead with an increased diversity of representation and a mandate which reflects initiatives currently being undertaken whilst providing the capacity for future works in a broad range of areas so as to continue to address the determinants of health across the social, economic and environmental spectrum.

Partnerships are the way we do business as they enable the best outcome to be achieved. The achievement of these outcomes can only occur as a result of the strength of the partners. The SGGPCP is the platform from where this process occurs.

Before officially launching the Partnership Agreement I would like to particularly mention the tremendous work of our previous EO Rosie Rowe and the strong leadership provided by our previous Chair Bruce De Vergier without their presence the PCP would not be in the position it is today. I would also like to thank the PCP Team for all their work this year

particularly more recently Rowena Wiley as the Acting EO in providing support to the team and the executive in more recent times.

As this event is also the launch of the new PCP Offices (a year on) I also want to make mention of the tremendous facilities that the PCP now operates from which I am sure you would all agree are providing a great space to base the current PCP operations from.

On behalf of the PCP Team I officially launch the Partnership Agreement and the new PCP Offices (one year on).

You are most welcome to have a few drinks to celebrate the launch as the PCP Year as we draw towards Christmas.

Kevin O'Brien

SGGPCP Chair