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MEDIA RELEASE

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Health amalgamation awareness queried

WIMMERA Development Association is seeking to understand the community's awareness and engagement into a proposed health services amalgamation.

The association has launched a short survey which will collect information about people's understanding of the proposed amalgamation of Wimmera Heath Care Group, Stawell Regional Health, Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital with Ballarat Health Services.

Executive director Chris Sounness said he would work with organisations such as Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership to escalate the sentiments from the survey to state government and other key decision-makers.

"We want to understand the level of confidence people in our region have about information communicated regarding the proposed amalgamation, the future of local healthcare services, and the impact on jobs and opportunities in the region," Mr Sounness said.

"It would be appreciated if you could take time to fill out this survey, and share it with your networks in the region, so that as many people as possible can respond. We want to test a broad range of views to understand the level of awareness about significant changes for the future delivery of health care."

People can access the survey via the association's website at <u>www.wda.org.au</u> or direct to the survey link at <u>https://sprw.io/stt-dd9a91</u>

Wimmera Development Association is the peak advocacy body behind many major, emerging projects in the region. It supports businesses, promotes economic development opportunities to investors and is a key link between industry and governments, lobbying for improved infrastructure and for regional priority issues.

ENDS

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