



COHUNA
DISTRICT HOSPITAL

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 8th of October 2020

New era in maternity at Cohuna District Hospital

Much-loved Cohuna District Hospital GP obstetrician Dr Peter Barker has announced he will retire from obstetric care from Saturday 1 May 2021, heralding a new era for maternity services at the health service.

Dr Barker, who will continue to serve the community as a General Practitioner and anaesthetist at Cohuna District Hospital, said it has been an honour to serve the Cohuna community over the years and is committed to working closely with the hospital to help secure a suitable replacement.

“It has been a great privilege to support Cohuna mothers through their pregnancies and share in one of life's most important events,” Dr Barker said.

“My decision to retire from providing maternity care is part of my gradual pathway towards retirement and I will work closely with the hospital and the community to attract a suitable replacement.

“It's an exciting time for any obstetrician to join Cohuna District Hospital, particularly given the current activity around Service, Strategic and Master Planning for the future of the service. I'll do as much as I can to help make this happen in recruiting my successor,” Dr Barker said.

In the lead up to Dr Barker's retirement from maternity care, Cohuna District Hospital will also be undertaking community engagement initiatives around maternity services, looking to further inform and enhance the services provided through the Maternity Antenatal Clinic that was opened just under 12 months ago.

Cohuna District Hospital Chief Executive Officer Ben Maw thanked Dr Peter Barker for his dedicated and highly appreciated service to the community over the years.

“I would like to thank Dr Barker for his remarkable service to the community in maternity care. We look forward to working closely with Dr Barker and the community to find an appropriate replacement to continue his legacy of outstanding care,” Mr Maw said.

“We have a lot to offer as a vibrant and close-knit community, and coupled with our recent upgrades and our close connections to regional hospitals’, we have many positive drawcards to find a replacement,” Mr Maw said.

The transition will not impact current care and it will be business as usual for those booked at CDH. For families that will give birth after May 1st 2021, our Maternity Antenatal Clinic will work closely with regional maternity partners and referral networks to ensure quality care whilst we review our models and actively seek recruitment over the next 6 months.

Cohuna District Hospital will continue to prioritise efficient delivery and prompt maternity services to patients as they search for a replacement GP obstetrician. To find out more about our services, please visit www.cdh.vic.gov.au and also register your interest in supporting future service design discussions by nominating for a position on our Partnering With Consumers Committee.

ABOUT COHUNA DISTRICT HEALTH

Cohuna District Hospital has 16 beds providing acute medical, surgical and obstetric for residents of Cohuna and the surrounding catchment area. It continues to provide community and home-based services such as District Nursing, Social Support Group and meals on wheels in conjunction with the Shire of Gannawarra.

For more information please contact Ben Maw, CEO on 5456 5300