Excellence in
Rural Healthcare

LETTER TO PATIENTS

As you may have heard, our much-loved Cohuna District Hospital GP obstetrician Dr Peter Barker has announced he will retire from obstetric care from Saturday 1 May 2021.

Dr Barker will continue to serve the community as a General Practitioner and Anaesthetist at Cohuna District Hospital for the foreseeable future. His decision to retire from providing maternity care is part of his gradual pathway towards retirement.

We 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 a suitable replacement to continue his legacy of outstanding care.

Finding a suitable replacement is now a priority for the hospital, and we will be working closely with Ochre Medical Clinic, Dr Barker and the local community to do this and forge a new future for our maternity services. If you know of anyone with the right credentials we encourage you to get in touch with us.

The transition will not impact current care and it will be business as usual throughout the process for existing patients.

From November 2020, our Midwifery Antenatal Clinic will work closely with mothers expecting to deliver after May 1st 2021, enhancing their referral pathways to Echuca, Swan Hill and Bendigo.

We will continue to prioritise efficient delivery and prompt maternity services to patients, as we search for a replacement GP obstetrician. We are also looking to undertake further community discussions around how we can better enhance our ante-natal and post-natal services for woman and their families in the Gannawarra region.

We look forward to continuing to work with you towards a common goal of providing the best possible health services to the people of Cohuna.

Yours faithfully,

Ben Maw

Chief Executive Officer,

Cohuna District Hospital