



Shire of York

HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE – SOUTHERN INLAND HEALTH INITIATIVE

York is amongst a number of communities that will benefit from the Southern Inland Health Initiative, which will see over half a billion dollars pumped into health care in the southern inland catchment area.

Funded by Royalties for Regions, this will include \$325million worth of capital works and \$240million to increase the health workforce and improve the provision of health services.

What does this mean for the York community?

New health care networks – new health care networks are being developed as part of the Initiative. The networks will see more General Practitioners living and working in key network towns. People who go to York Hospital will have better access to emergency medical care and can expect nursing staff in the Emergency Department to be supported by doctors and specialists from Northam Hospital – either by telephone or via Telehealth technology. This will mean better access to timely medical advice in an emergency, and if necessary, there will be a clear escalation process to either specialist care or for a transfer to another hospital if needed.

Innovative Telehealth technology – Telehealth technology has been installed at York Hospital. People can now access a range of health services through telephone or videoconferencing. For people living in York, this will mean better access to a range of health services not available in the past; as well as the possibility of not having to travel to the metropolitan area for treatment or check ups.

An emergency care telephone support service for York is operating from Northam Hospital, meaning the York community can be assured of better access to safe and sustainable medical services.

Infrastructure upgrades – there has been extensive planning around possible infrastructure upgrades or refurbishments under the Southern Inland Health Initiative. Hospital buildings have been assessed and early repairs and upgrades across the catchment area will be undertaken in 2012/2013. Larger scale works are being planned and costed. Communities will be kept up to date as the infrastructure program progresses.

Primary Health Care – York residents will benefit from a boost to Primary Health Care under the Initiative through additional Primary Health Nurse Practitioners and Primary Health Care Integration Teams.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Southern Inland Health Initiative, I urge you to subscribe to the e-newsletter or visit the website at health.wa.gov.au.

RAY HOOPER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
310712