

4 December 2015

Community Health Alliance

Internal Memorandum

JOINING FORCES FOR BETTER COMMUNITY HEALTH

In a bold move set to improve the way community health services are designed and delivered in Victoria, four of the most experienced services, Merri; Dianella; Inner South and North Richmond Community Health Services have come together to form Victorian Community Health Alliance or ViCHA.

Together, these four services support over 1 million Victorians across 12 local government areas and, as a strategic alliance, have an extraordinary opportunity to provide more efficient and innovative primary health services to those who need them most.

"It was a conscious decision to join forces after we all recognised that collectively we can make much more of a difference to the health and wellbeing of our local communities than we can alone," said Nigel Fidgeon.

"We each bring a key area of expertise to ViCHA but we also have many synergies that make it easy for us to collaborate and work effectively and more efficiently together."

With over 1,000 staff, ViCHA is a major service provider for aged care and disability services providing professional, accredited and caring services to over well over 100,000 clients.

"For ViCHA, it's not just about being responsive to our community's needs but it's also being proactive in looking at the needs of the future and having a strong position on what we believe our health services should be," said Damian Ferrie.

ViCHA also has leading edge skill and expertise in designing and delivering services in critical and complex health areas such mental health, oral health, early childhood and family violence.

"We saw a major need for us to be more coordinated, better resourced and to use our collective knowledge in helping our communities in some really challenging and complex areas," said Neil Cowen.

"And as not for profit organisations every cent we earn goes back into delivering first class and more affordable services for clients and their families. That's something we're all really proud of," said Demos Krousos.

ViCHA is open for business and has already been hard at work realising the benefits of the cooperative approach gained and was recently successful in securing a Victorian Government ICT innovation grant of \$2.1 million to develop a new Client Management System (CMS). The grant will be used to develop a new CMS to deliver significant cost efficiencies for all four members, along with improved client care outcomes.



Demos Krousos CEO



Nigel Fidgeon CEO



Dr Neil Cowen CEO



Damian Ferrie CEO