

COMMUNITY UPDATE

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February 3, 2022



Australia Day celebrations

It was pavlova all round and no leftovers when we celebrated Australia Day at Ouyen Aged Care and Pattison House last week. The Aussie perennial dessert went down a treat with residents!

Welcome Back to Early Years!



We are all getting into the rhythm of new routines and processes at our MTHCS Early Years sites.

They are always a hive of activity, and getting back to school and early years has been even busier than ever this year, with new systems and processes to manage COVID-19 risk. We have a number of COVID safe measures in place for all of our sites:

- All staff are vaccinated and are required to receive their boosters in coming weeks
- Outdoor programming will be a focus where possible given our hot climate
- External pick up and drop off of children
- Rapid Antigen Testing program available for all staff
- Staff will be wearing masks indoors but there is an exemption if actively teaching and clear enunciation or visibility of their mouth is essential.

An important reminder for the safety of everyone, please keep your children home if they have any symptoms at all, however mild.

Pictured ABOVE Leisa Cronin and Thomas Grant

Shout out to everyone who has had their vaccination!

Huge thanks to everyone who has had their third dose (Booster) vaccination, and to parents who have taken their children to get vaccinated ready to begin the 2022 school year.

Vaccinating younger children protects them, but it also means less chance of school closures in future. It helps get our kids back to have more face-to-face learning and play time, engaging in different activities, and being with their friends.

If you haven't booked your children in yet (or your own booster shot!) please put your name down with our MTHCS Clinic. Supplies and resources are becoming available and we are ramping up our vaccination program again.



Recognizing our achievements with Staff Service Awards

We always love to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our MTHCS staff but some achievements bear special recognition. Our annual Staff Service Awards late last year included some extraordinary long-service honors.

Our wonderful Midwife Denise Kay (above) has spent 45 years with Mallee Track, and our Director of Nursing Pam Vallance (below) has worked at MTHCS for 40 years. Along with Director of Community Services Lyndal Munro (15 years pictured at bottom) they received service badges from board chair Joy Lynch.

While many organisations struggle to retain staff, these are some notable achievements of which we are very proud - and which say so much about the genuine satisfaction of the value of working and supporting the communities in which we live.



Consumer Representatives

Mallee Track Health and Community Service (MTHCS) is looking for people to be involved in our Quality, Safety and Risk Committee to provide specialty consumer advice. The Committee reports to our Board of Directors.

We are looking for expressions of interest from a diverse range of people from the communities of Sea Lake, Ouyen, Underbool, Murrayville and surrounding areas.

Consumer representatives are important to us to keep our patients, carers, and families as the focus of what we do and help us to see perspectives apart from our own. We need to know what is important to our community in order to make MTHCS a health service that meets your needs. Being a consumer representative can give you the opportunity to be part of a team and help to improve the services we provide.

To register your interest, or to ask questions and discuss without commitment, contact Board EA on 5092 1111 or email Bbramwell@mthcs.vic.gov.au