



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Western Region Health Centre?

Western Region Health Centre (est. 1964) delivers a range of health services including medical, dental, community health, mental health, support services, and group work across the West of Melbourne (Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Wyndham, Hobsons Bay, Melton, and Hume).

What is 'Save Our Dental Clinics' about?

Western Region Health Centre has been working for many years to get commitment from State Government to fund a new building to replace our dental clinics at Geelong Road and Paisley Street. We did not receive the \$9m we were expecting in this year's State budget.

Is it safe to use the existing dental service?

Yes. Our qualified staff are committed to delivering dental care of a very high standard. Our practices are above Australian Government Standards and are carefully monitored.

The age of the buildings and equipment does not yet make our services unsafe but it does limit the range and type of services we can deliver, and it places uncertainty around how long we can continue to deliver dental services.

If facilities become unsafe, we will need to close our doors.

Where will people go if the service closes?

We will only close the buildings if there is a safety risk to our clients and staff. If we do have to close, our clients will have no choice but to find another service. We will do everything we can to help, but for many the private system is too costly, and waiting times in the public system will become even worse if an additional 10,000 people suddenly need care.

Is dental care really that important?

Yes, oral health is important for overall health and wellbeing. There are strong links between gum disease and cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and some forms of cancer. Good oral health is also important for mental health. Smiling enables people to connect and take part in society.

What is needed to fix the dental service?

We need a replacement clinic urgently and we are asking for Government funding to get one running within the next 12 months. We wish to provide the same dental care as other clinics – to guarantee ongoing services, increase the range of services we offer, and improve dental health for all people in the region.

What can I do?

Sign our petitions to the Government, write a letter, or join our campaign mailing list. More information about the Save Our Dental Clinics campaign is at www.wrhc.com.au

www.wrhc.com.au/saveourdentalclinics

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WELLBEING. REGION
EVERYONE. HEALTH
CENTRE**