

# **THE NATIONALS**



## **HUGH DELAHUNTY, MP MEMBER FOR LOWAN**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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5 October 2007

#### **NATIONALS SUPPORT HOSPITAL BOARDS**

Following a visit to the Benalla Electorate with his colleague Dr. Bill Sykes, the Nationals Spokesman for Health Hugh Delahunty said that the Nationals fully support hospital boards in their administering of hospitals for the benefit of their communities.

“Over the past two days I have met with many hospital board members and Chief Executive Officers, and have seen first hand the great job these boards are doing for their community,” Mr. Delahunty said.

A couple of years ago the Labor Government flirted with the idea of removing hospital boards, however the Nationals lobbied hard for their retention,” Mr Delahunty said.

“Local hospitals are a strongly connected with their community through these boards, which would not be the case if hospitals were run by a centralised board.”

Mr Delahunty said the members of hospital boards brought local knowledge and expertise to the table in the management of local health services.

“People are entitled to top quality health services regardless of where they live and, to this end, members of hospital boards are dedicated to the health and well being of their communities. Country hospitals enjoy enormous support from their local communities because they are administered by locals for locals,” Mr Delahunty said.

“Country communities have greater ownership of their hospitals and support them through donations, bequests and fundraising activities.”

“The Nationals commend members of hospital boards on their tireless work and we wholeheartedly support their commitment to the continued betterment of health outcomes to country communities,” Mr Delahunty said.

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