media release

EACH Social and Community Health and Knox Community Health announce intention to merge

Communities across the eastern region can expect to receive better access to integrated social and community health services when a proposed merger between EACH and Knox Community Health takes place in late 2013.

Following several months of discussions, the Boards of EACH and Knox have reached an in principle decision to merge, subject to a rigorous due diligence process which is being undertaken over the coming months.

Peter Ruzyla, CEO of EACH and Chris Potter, CEO of Knox Community Health are confident the merged organisation will continue to offer clients the local, personalised service they have come to expect from both organisations with the added benefits of a more extensive network of social and community health programs and locations. "Through joining together we will be able to provide a broader range of services to the community and take better advantage of new opportunities and funding streams. Importantly, this merger will also enable us to advocate with a more effective voice in the health and community sector." Mr. Potter commented.

Staff at both EACH and Knox have been advised that the due diligence process has commenced, headed by a transition committee with equal representation from both organisations. It is expected that amalgamation at governance level will be completed by December 2013. Both Boards have expressed their intention that the interests of clients, staff and volunteers of both organisations are given the highest consideration as part of the merger plan.

"Being part of a larger organisation will provide additional opportunities for staff and more integrated health services for clients. It will also strengthen the organisation's ability to respond effectively to the range of policy reforms in the health, disability and community service sectors as well as the growth in demand for services across the community." said Mr. Ruzyla.

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