



# Media release

**The Hon Peter Ryan MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for State Development  
Minister for Regional and Rural Development

**The Hon David Davis MLC**  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Ageing

Thursday 20 February 2014

## Health assessment centre to open in Morwell

- **Community health assessment centre will be open from tomorrow**
- **Centre will offer basic primary health assessments**
- **Victorian Coalition Government supporting the community**

A community health assessment centre will be open in Morwell from tomorrow to provide preliminary health assessments to local residents.

Minister for Health David Davis said the assessment centre has been established by Ambulance Victoria and will be staffed by paramedics and registered nurses.

"It will be conveniently located at the Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional office at 2 Saskia Way in Morwell, adjacent to the Mid Valley Shopping Centre," Mr Davis said.

The centre will offer basic primary health assessments such as blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, and basic respiratory checks such as chest sounds and respiratory rate.

Deputy Premier Peter Ryan said people visiting the centre will be provided with current health and community information about the health impacts of the mine fire.

"This will assist local GP practices and the Latrobe Regional Hospital by providing easily accessible health advice about the effects of smoke from the mine fire," Mr Ryan said.

Member for Morwell Russell Northe said he was pleased local residents could take advantage of the preliminary health assessments.

"A 12 hour service will run from 8am to 8pm each day. Should anyone need medical care, they will be referred to their own doctor or to Latrobe Regional Hospital," Mr Northe said.

Victoria's Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester said that excessive smoke levels can not only aggravate existing heart or lung conditions, but may also cause members of the community to experience irritated eyes, coughing or wheezing.

"Children, the elderly, pregnant women, smokers and those with existing heart or lung conditions, including asthma are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in fine particles," Dr Lester said.

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“Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy physical activity and keep informed about fire activity in their immediate area.

“In extended, very smoky local conditions, sensitive individuals should consider temporarily staying with a friend or relative living outside the smoke-affected area. Others should also consider a break away from the smoky conditions if practical.

“Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor.

“People with asthma should follow their asthma management plan.”

The opening of the health assessment centre follows the establishment of a community respite centre at the Moe Town Hall, which Mr Davis visited yesterday.

If you have concerns about your health, or someone in your care, you can call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24.

For information about how to protect your health from the impacts of smoke and ash visit [health.vic.gov.au](http://health.vic.gov.au).

For air-quality updates visit [epa.vic.gov.au](http://epa.vic.gov.au).

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