



# Media release

**The Hon David Davis MLC**

Minister for Health  
Minister for Ageing

Thursday 20 February 2014

## Minister visits Latrobe Valley respite centre

- **Community respite centre opens in Moe Town Hall**
- **Access to information on services and general health information**
- **Victorian Coalition Government supporting the community**

Minister for Health David Davis yesterday visited a community respite centre in the Latrobe Valley where residents can seek temporary respite from the smoky conditions caused by the Morwell open-cut fire.

"The centre offers a cool air conditioned space where any resident can take a break from the smoky conditions, but also have access to useful information," Mr Davis said.

"The centre will provide information on government services and general health information.

"The centre cannot provide medical advice, residents should seek individual medical consultations for their specific needs, but will be providing advice on how to manage the smoke."

Pregnant women, people with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, older people and some younger people should take particular care.

Minister for Community Services Mary Wooldridge said the centre will be operated by the Department of Human Services in conjunction with the Latrobe City Council.

There will also be representatives from a number of organisations present, including the Department of Health, Ambulance Victoria, the Environment Protection Authority, Victoria's fire services, the Red Cross and the Victorian Council of Churches.

The centre is located at the Moe Town Hall in Albert St, and will be open today from 9am to 7pm, and will remain open daily.

Opening times may vary over coming days depending on demand. Residents should contact the Department of Human Services in Traralgon on 5177 2500 for up-to-date opening hours.

"Public transport is available via Latrobe Valley Bus Lines, with a bus stop directly outside," Mr Davis said.

"There is also a V/Line station in Moe, which is a short walk from the Moe Town Hall."

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Mr Davis said authorities would continue to provide the best available advice to the community while the smoky conditions continue.

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).

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

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