



Media release

The Hon David Davis MLC

Minister for Health
Minister for Ageing

Thursday 27 February 2014

Health assessment centre in Morwell expanded

- **More paramedics and nurses available for health assessments**
- **Open daily from 8am to 8pm in Morwell**
- **Those needing medical care will be referred to their doctor or to hospital**

The community health assessment centre, which opened in Morwell last week, has been expanded, Minister for Health David Davis announced today.

Mr Davis said the centre now has more floor space to accommodate visitors and extra paramedics and nurses to provide assessments more quickly.

“The assessment centre has been established by Ambulance Victoria and is staffed by paramedics and registered nurses,” Mr Davis said.

“This expansion of the centre, at the Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional office at 2 Saskia Way in Morwell, is about providing timely access for Morwell residents in a comfortable environment.

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

Mr Davis said the centre offered a 12 hour service running from 8am to 8pm daily.

“Should anyone need medical care, they will be referred to their own doctor or to Latrobe Regional Hospital,” Mr Davis said.

“People visiting the centre will also be provided with current health and other 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.”

Victoria’s Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester says that excessive smoke levels cannot 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.”

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.

For information about how to protect your health from the impacts of smoke and ash visit health.vic.gov.au.

For air-quality updates visit epa.vic.gov.au.

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