



HEALTHCARE FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF MOUNT ALEXANDER

Planning for stronger regional health and wellbeing for the communities of Mount Alexander

Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health have worked together for 42 years to deliver complete healthcare and wellbeing services across the communities of Mount Alexander.

Over the last few months, we have started making big changes to the way we deliver healthcare in this region. These have been motivated by demand from patients and residents, changes in the Mount Alexander demographic, dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the implications of two health Royal Commissions and reassessing how we allocate resources.

Now is the time to build on this collaboration – in fact, it’s overdue.

We are now formally exploring the unification of Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health. The Boards will now commission a proposal that will examine the potential benefits of unification.

Change will only happen if the boards are in unanimous agreement, if community benefit is assured, and if the State Government accepts the boards’ recommendations.

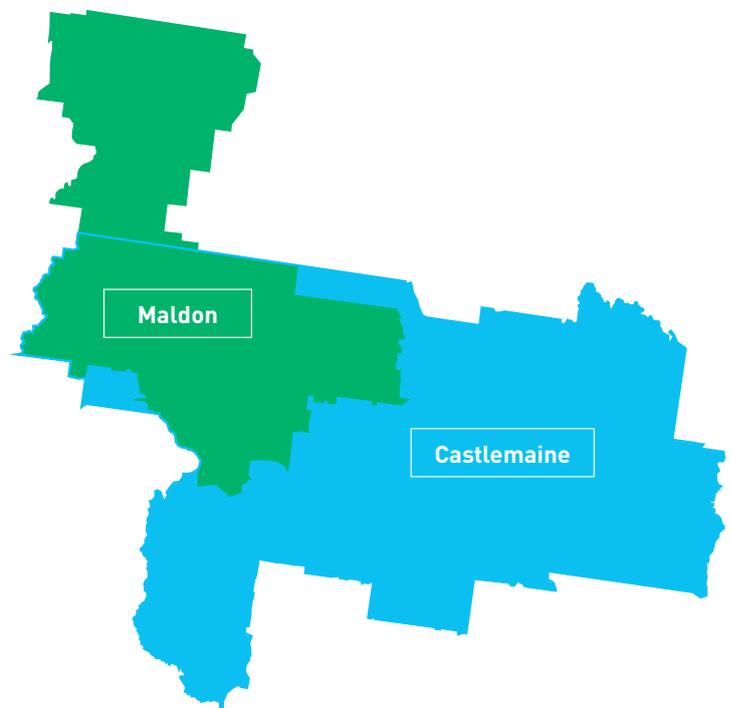
We want to engage our community about what this future could look like.

CATCHMENT AREA (THE COMMUNITIES OF MOUNT ALEXANDER)

Mount Alexander Shire has a 20,000+ catchment population.

Maldon Hospital covers Welshman’s Reef to Laanecoorie and Baringhup to Walmer including Maldon, Tarrangower and Nuggety.

Castlemaine Health covers all of Mount Alexander Shire for the services they provide.



SERVICE SNAPSHOT

Maldon Hospital

Maldon Hospital has been operating for over 160 years. It is a well-respected and much-loved local health service committed to delivering a range of safe and caring health services.

It employs more than 60 people and has a diverse range of services including Residential Aged Care Services (28 beds), Acute Services (4 beds), and nurse-led primary care. Maldon Hospital also provides a range of Community Services including district nursing, transport, social support, health promotion, social support and pathology.

Maldon Hospital has a long history of working alongside the Maldon Medical Clinic, and its primary care services.

Castlemaine Health

Castlemaine Health delivers a range of health services to people living in and around the Shire of Mount Alexander including Residential Aged Care services (130 beds), an Urgent Care Centre, Acute Services (40 beds), Maternity and Subacute services. It offers allied health and specialist services through its Community Rehabilitation Centre.

Castlemaine Health delivers nursing and palliative care services to people in their homes and offers social support and activity programs in the community. The service hosts medical and allied health students and provides work experience placements. It is a registered provider for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Recently Castlemaine Health integrated with CHIRP to provide enhanced access to community health services.

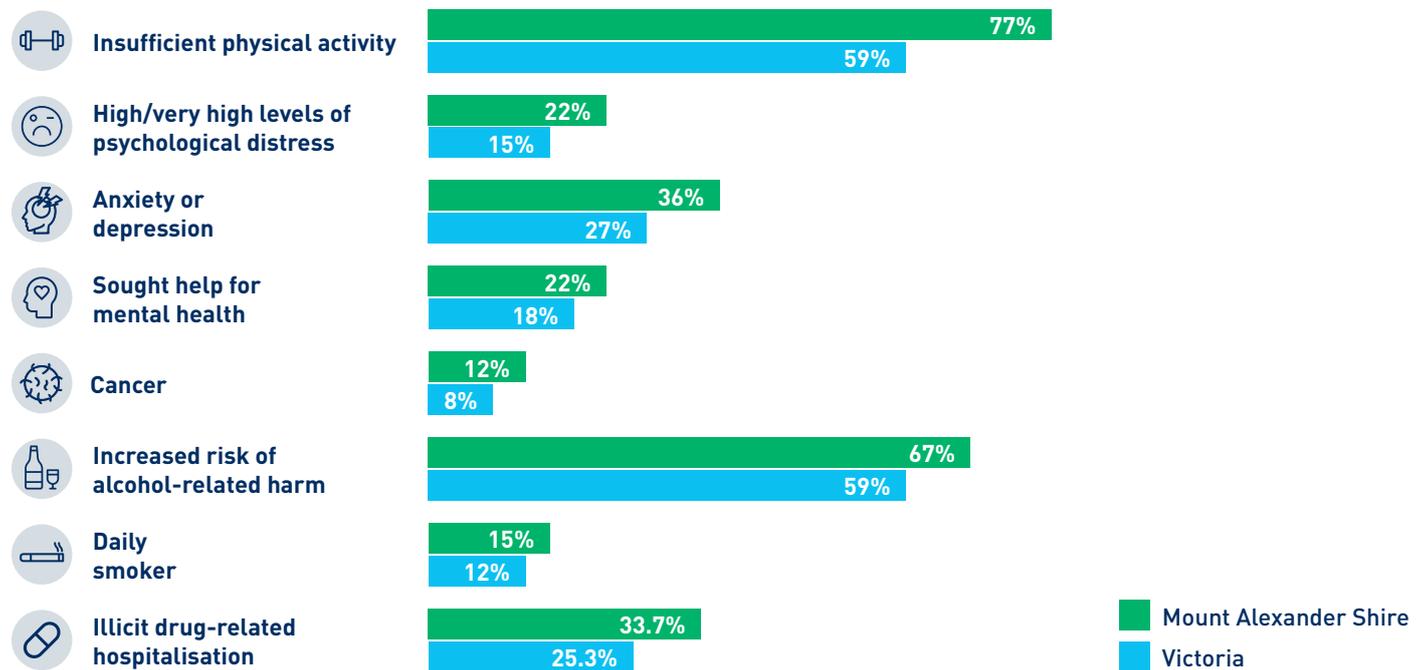
MOUNT ALEXANDER DEMOGRAPHICS

Mount Alexander Shire				
Population and demographics	Between 2016 and 2031, the population of Mount Alexander Shire is expected to increase by 11.21%	Nearly 25% are over 65	33% of households have children	15% under 15
Socioeconomic	Ranked 42 out of 79 on SEIFA index scale. Population is neither relatively advantaged nor disadvantaged compared to other LGA's.			

MALDON AND CASTLEMAINE DEMOGRAPHICS

	Maldon	Castlemaine	Victoria
Aged 65 years and over	33.3%	28.9%	15.6 %
Live with a disability	20%	5.1%	18.4%
LGBTQI+ population	^11% +	^11% +	^5.7%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	0.4%	1%	0.8%
Speak a language other than English at home	3.3% (Dutch, Vietnamese, French, Italian, Hungarian)	13.2% (Mandarin, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Sudanese and Kirundi)	27.8%

WHAT'S DRIVING HEALTHCARE IN MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE?



Our community has complex changing needs. Our population is growing, as new, diverse inhabitants move into the communities of Mount Alexander. This is both an opportunity and a challenge.

How do we care for a larger, ageing population? How can we provide enhanced and more equitable access to primary care, publicly funded allied health and community services to address these health and wellbeing challenges?

We have a responsibility to tackle these issues. We must meet current and future healthcare needs.

SERVICE PROVISION

Service	Maldon	Castlemaine	Already shared
Health Services			
Local GP	X	X	✓
Pastoral Care (spiritual and emotional care)			✓
Pathology		X	
Maternity services		X	
Acute services	X	X	
Rehabilitation services			✓
Covid testing and vaccination clinics			✓
Surgery			✓
Urgent care		X	✓
Allied health		X	
Specialist clinics – hand, musculoskeletal, continence		X	
Chronic and Complex Care (eg diabetes education and treatment)		X	
Community outreach service		X	
Aged Care and Disability Services			
Transition Care Program	X	X	
Residential Aged Care	X	X	
District Nursing Service	X	X	
Adult Day Program	X	X	
NDIS provider		X	
Governance and administration			
Clinical governance – administration, aged care and legislative compliance, accreditation, risk management	X	X	✓ (CH support MH)
Corporate governance (via the CEO, incl strategic planning, financial, HR, Communications, ICT, payroll, secretarial support), Health Information Services			✓ (MH Director of Nursing reports to CH CEO)
Director of Medical Services			✓
Maldon Hospital staff management	X		
Staff training and development	X	X	✓
OH&S, Return to work, emergency management			✓
Logistics			
Meal provision and supplies			✓
Procurement and Pharmaceutical supplies			✓
Facilities and fleet management			✓
Linen			✓
Environmental Services (cleaning and food service delivery)	X	X	
CHIRP PROGRAMS TO SHARE WITH COMMUNITIES OF MOUNT ALEXANDER			
Community health		X	
Alcohol and drug services		X	
Youth mentoring		X	
Health promotion		X	
LGBTQI+ Let's Get Proud program		X	
Mental health counselling services		X	
Family and Housing services		X	

OPPORTUNITIES

Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health have closely worked together for 42 years. We have a shared CEO, and many staff and services.

Our rural health services face increasing challenges. We need to change to meet them head on. Our communities have complex, evolving needs. That's why we are exploring how we can deliver better healthcare in the region as a **fully united service**.



PEOPLE

- A sustainable and diverse workforce
- Reduced reliance on temporary staff
- Training and capacity building



SERVICES

- Better care closer to home
- Quality and safety
- Increased access to services



ENDURING

- Financial rigour
- Sustainable model
- Clear governance
- Local representation
- Cohesive planning and delivery

OUR FOCUS AREAS



Aged Care

Given 25 per cent of people in the communities of Mount Alexander are over 65, aged care will be critical for our future. How can we ensure we are improving our services to meet the increasing demands of our ageing communities? What are the options available to us for a specialist Dementia unit?



Primary and allied health

Coming together can provide increased access to publicly funded allied health services closer to home. Are there options to host chronic disease management or publicly funded allied health services such as physiotherapy in Maldon? Are there options to host community health services such as mental health support, counselling or drug and alcohol services in Maldon?



Compliance

How can we reduce the compliance burden on our staff, directing their efforts into areas that need it most? It's frontline service that count.



Staff

How can we invest in our people, attracting and sustaining a strong medical and clinical workforce while reducing our reliance on temporary staff? It's about enhanced training and development opportunities, better support for staff in terms of collaboration, shared resources and broader experience.



Equitable access

We're committed to providing access to the diverse needs of clients, supporting safe, high quality services to all community groups including LGBTQI+, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability and CALD groups. How can we work together to deliver more services closer to home?

SHARE YOUR NEEDS

We want to hear from you – our community – so we can bring services to the area that meet the health needs of the communities of Mount Alexander.

We'll work closely with patients, residents, staff and groups in each local community to develop this exciting and much needed plan for the future.

To have your say please visit www.maldhosp.vic.gov.au/community-engagement