

MEDIA RELEASE



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Victorian Government assistance needed in Philip Island

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) calls on the Victorian Government to assure the people of the Bass Coast that hospital services in this region will be supported and maintained.

RDAA Vice President Dr Nola Maxfield said: "Reports that Warley Hospital is having trouble making ends meet and is selling off equipment to pay for its staff, is of extreme concern to RDAA.

"This small community hospital in Cowes plays a crucial role in servicing the needs of the popular Victorian tourist spot of Phillip Island and the State Government must provide interim support to ensure existing services are maintained.

"Warley Hospital's emergency services were recently withdrawn and the flow-on effects of this have been dramatic in the Bass Coast township of Wonthaggi, which possesses the nearest hospital.

"Only two months ago, a group of doctors in Wonthaggi withdrew their services from that hospital's emergency department due to their workload being deemed dangerous to both themselves and to patients.

"It is very important that the people of Philip Island are able access hospital services and receive treatment within their local community and within close proximity to family and support.

"Therefore, we need to see some constructive thinking from government to establish how this can be maintained."

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