

Looking back at the year that was

WELCOME TO OUR 2022 SHOWCASE WHERE WE HIGHLIGHT KEY ACTIVITIES GV HEALTH HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

We have seen another very busy year due to a number of ongoing challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, the recent flooding and staff shortages.

Once again, I have seen our staff go above and beyond to continue serving our community, and wish to thank them for their resilience and commitment to our health service.

We recently celebrated staff achieving 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service in 2021 and 2022, with a delay last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are fantastic milestones for these dedicated staff and a big cause of celebration for our health service. We thank you for working with us and we are excited to see your journeys continue.

The Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit (PHU) continued to provide contact tracing, case management, and outbreak management as part of the COVID-19 outbreaks across the Goulburn Valley region and into NSW.

Most cases and exposure sites in our catchment area were supported and managed by this unit and the COVID Positive home monitoring team.

The team is also continuing to support the community's health by distributing information and partnering with community groups. The Goulburn Valley PHU were also extremely helpful in publicly distributing health and safety information during the floods.

Work on our \$229 million Stage 1 refurbishment and redevelopment of GV Health's Graham St campus continued this year with the new Special Care Nursery, Child and Adolescent Unit, and extended Emergency

Department, as examples, opening earlier in the year.

With only 50 per cent of the redevelopment of the site completed at the conclusion of Stage 1, I am looking forward to upcoming funded and capital projects, including improved staff accommodation and expanding existing mental health facilities.

To complement our refurbishment and redevelopment, we have a number of job openings available covering a wide variety of areas from clinical areas to administration and support services. All information on our current opportunities is available on our website. We are ready to welcome and support you in your journey with us.

The GV Health Foundation has been working extremely hard this year to help support the services and treatment we provide by purchasing equipment and assisting with various initiatives, all in the name of patient care.

Recent highlights include the generous donation of funding for a trans perineal biopsy machine for prostate cancer diagnosis from the Male Bag Foundation, the Freemasons Foundation Victoria and

the Biggest Blokes Ever Luncheon Shepparton, and receiving an incredible \$20,000 from the Graham Hill Eyecare Pink Ribbon Sunglasses expo, which will also go to GV Health cancer services.

A very big thank you to everyone who has contributed or helped in some way – your help has made a big difference and I look forward to seeing the ongoing positive effects this work will have.

This holiday season and over the new year, we would like to thank the GV Health community for your support, understanding, and care. Your support and understanding really does mean a lot to us and in turn, we are committed to providing top-quality healthcare to you.

I hope you stay happy, healthy and safe and look forward to the good things the new year is sure to bring.

Matt Sharp
Chief Executive



Onwards and upwards for the

GV Health 
foundation

VICKI SCOTT'S STORY



Jill Maude, Vicki Scott, Mark DePaola and Claire Ewart-Kennedy; Vicki has become involved with the GV Health Foundation after being diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Vicki Scott's stage four bowel cancer diagnosis on March 11, 2022 led her down the path of wanting to be involved with the GV Health Foundation.

"I've had all my treatment here locally, and I've realised a lot of the resourcing, equipment and services is actually getting funded by the GV Health Foundation," she said.

"I've had to travel to Melbourne to see various specialists and those in of themselves are long days, especially when you've got cancer, it's very exhausting.

"Having cancer services and treatment locally has helped maintain that sense of normality ... it has really made a difference, especially when you've had a rough day with treatment."

Since her diagnosis, Vicki has learnt a lot more about why the foundation is needed and the importance of keeping cancer services local.

"I'm now familiar with the amount of work they've done over the years ... I'm very keen to continue my involvement."

GV Health Foundation chair Stephen Merrylees said the foundation was very much centred around exactly what

the community needs.

"We're very focused around the community and we're very sensitive to what their needs are," he said.

"We aim to address the needs the community has and fill those gaps, but we also rely on their assistance, so we're very much 'by and for' our community."

GV Health Foundation and engagement director Claire Ewart-Kennedy said she was proud of the foundation's outcomes for oncology patients since its inception in 1989.

"We believe strong partnerships, including with those who have used or are using our service, can go a long way in addressing those needs with the support of the same people we'll be helping," she said.

Vicki said while she was incredibly impressed with the work other cancer support organisations provided, she wanted to support those in her own backyard.

"There's only so much within that bucket, but it's here for localised services, so it's just really important to me," she said.

DECADES OF SERVICE FROM AUXILIARY



The Goulburn Valley Health Extended Care Auxiliary, Lolene James, Marge Merrylees, Lisa Ladas and Lyn Ford hasn't stopped fundraising since its inception in the 1960s.

The Goulburn Valley Health Extended Care Auxiliary began raising funds in the late 1960s to support the Mooroopna Hospital – or Mooroopna Extended Care, as it was known back then.

The members catch up monthly to discuss raising funds for both the Mary Coram Unit and Grutzner House.

Some were founders of the committee and are still active in raising funds in any way they can, from plant sales to collecting donations from well-wishers.

At their annual Christmas lunch, the women agreed the hospital needed help to make purchases from its 'wish list', and that the Mary Coram Unit and Grutzner House were where the most support was needed.

Some of the members have been patients, or have had family in the care of the hospital, and love that they can contribute to make everyone's stay a bit more comfortable.

Over the years they have purchased shade sails, exercise bikes, big comfortable chairs and even 'colour' televisions, not to mention monitors and medical equipment that has made nursing these patients with advanced care needs a little bit easier.

The auxiliary meets on the first Monday of the month at Eastbank for a meeting and coffee. Everyone is more than welcome to attend.

THE BATTERY MAN'S STORY

Paul Archer, better known as the 'Battery Man', has been collecting old batteries to raise money for the GV Health Foundation for more than 12 years, raising over \$650,000 to date.

He collects and sells batteries, donating the money to GV Health's children's ward. His donations have funded new equipment, kids' activities and even Christmas presents.

"I've always felt that way, like I should do something, and the opportunity arose ... so I thought, why not push it," Paul said.

"This is a great community and I do it because I'm a community-oriented person.

"My motto is every battery counts."

Paul said his business, Natrad car radiators and airconditioning, had given him the opportunity to continue carrying out his important work. It gives him flexibility to receive donations at his workshop and collect larger donations in his distinctive ute when necessary.



Paul Archer, better known as the 'Battery Man' has been raising money for the GV Health children's ward for more than 12 years.

"I've been blessed with the business – it's given me the opportunity to do what my heart is supposed to be doing," he said.

"I was up in Cobram picking up batteries and a woman asked if I was the bloke who did the batteries and I said yes. She just said thank you for the work you're doing.

"She had a pram with her and when she said that ... I almost cried when that happened."

GV Health Foundation and engagement director Claire Ewart-Kennedy said the beauty of donations was people could raise money any way they'd like to.

"People can donate in any way that benefits the community and respects individual giving, so some might donate to the children's ward like Paul, or to oncology services in memory of a loved one, for example," she said.

"We're open to any partnerships that reflect the purpose of the foundation and assist in providing health services that result in better outcomes for the community."

However, Paul is still looking for help. He needs a new truck so he can carry more batteries at once, saving time and fuel as he travels on various pick-up jobs across Victoria and southern NSW.

"Right now, I've just got my ute and a trailer but a truck would be nice ... I can get a lot more on there at once and it just makes it easier to gather donations," he said.

"It would be a really big help for my work."

Old batteries can be donated to Paul at Natrad, 20 Campbell St, Shepparton.

GV Health redevelopment now open



The refurbished birth suites provide a comfortable and safe place for those giving birth.



The Special Care Nursery now has two isolation rooms, which lets babies under a month old to isolate before they're placed near other children.



The new playground and playroom gives children in the paediatric area a fun and engaging opportunity to play.



Nurse Natarsha Gall pulls up some sheets in the special Bubble CPAP cot, which is used for newborns who need continuous positive airway pressure to their lungs.

As part of GV Health's \$229 million Stage 1 redevelopment, the new Child and Adolescent Unit, Special Care Nursery, extended Emergency Department, Day of Surgery Admissions Unit, and upgraded Maternity and Birth Suites have now officially opened.

Theatre refurbishments are still under way and are due for completion early next year.

Highlights of the new areas at GV Health include:

- The extended Emergency Department has 36 new treatment spaces, which includes nine short-stay beds, an eight-bay fast-track area, and a new satellite imaging department comprising of two new X-ray rooms, an ultrasound room and a CT scan room.
- The Child and Adolescent Unit is covered in colourful designs to complement the playroom and playground areas, alongside 12 beds and a treatment room.
- The Special Care Nursery contains the latest technology to support newborns including 10 new cots, a resuscitation room, an isolation area and equipment as well as new bathing facilities.

New works will commence next year, including the upgrade of the Medical and Mary Coram Unit wards and the construction of the new \$163 million Acute & Community Health Mental Health facility.

Planning for a new Emergency Department mental health and alcohol and other drugs hub, increased car parking and improved staff accommodation at the Shepparton campus will also be points of focus.

Other new health facilities to be constructed in Shepparton will include a new \$15 million Youth Prevention and Recovery Centre as well as a \$25 million Early Parenting Centre.

Completed and upcoming works will help GV Health provide first-class service and high-quality care to patients and clients in the Goulburn Valley region.



One of the new paediatric treatment rooms for patient procedures.



The brightly decorated Child and Adolescent Unit day stay allows patients to have treatment in a comfortable and welcoming environment.



The new and improved Special Care Nursery bathing area, which has two baths and heating fans, as well as products and clothing available for parents.



The 'resus' room is a new addition to the Special Care Nursery, allowing staff to use state-of-the-art equipment to provide emergency care resuscitation to infants.

Recognising our long-serving staff

A significant number of GV Health staff from across our Shepparton, Tatura and Rushworth campuses have recently marked special years of service milestones – from 10 years up to 40 years.

There were more than 300 staff members celebrating a milestone either last year, 2021, or this year, 2022.

A very big thank you to all those staff who have given years of service – everyone sincerely appreciates the hard work and contributions you've made to GV Health and the community's health and wellbeing.

A common theme from staff at the service recognition ceremonies was the connections they have made with their colleagues and the people they have cared for over the years, as well as the difference their work makes to the people in our region.



Staff from the GV Health Graham Street campus celebrated up to 40 years of service as valued staff members.

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Glenda Watson

Catherine Meredith

Judith Baker

Donna Rooney

Lisa Thomas

Rhonda Miller

Karen Burney

Graeme Carey

Shauna Picard

Gabrielle Munro

Helen Burgess

Justine McConnell

Kristen Dempster

Deborah Novotny

Beryl O'Connor

Heather Newbegin

Nicole Jeffery

Grant Searle

Carmel Wileman

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Helen Atkins

Alison Chapman

Veronica Antonello

Mandy Simpson

Donna Campbell

Emilia Morris

Tanya Kuiper

Damian Hicks

Ellen Ryan

Leanne Cecchin

Deidre Laby

Sharon Gleeson

Suzanne Gravina

Joanne Coolahan

Louise Adams

Tania Meulenmeesters

Johanna Lawless

Rochelle Chadwick

Elizabeth Macgill

Kate Reid

Maria Perry

Pamela Ewert

Lisa Hooper

Kim Rowan

Kathryn Jennings

Deborah Harrison

Julie Glass

Sandra Loffel

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Christine Bowman

Jade Opie

Patricia Collier

Kate Moroney

Paula Armstrong

Varin Eddy

Sally Daff

Anthony Pacquola

Andrew McKnight

Michelle Parish

Mary Poulos

Vicki Richards

Belinda Keast

Alison Neville

Dianne Brown

Andrea Caia

Robin Evans

Keira Gibson

Megan Fox

Michelle Flanagan

Marcia Ratcliffe

Heidi Van Den Ende

Danielle Sofra

Jarrold Holtuisen

Sherie Kealy

Kerry Livesay

Lynette Schade

Kathleen Henderson

Tunya Jarvis

Carla Jewell

Leonie Fox

Dianne Fell

Jennifer Hendy

Kathleen Blackney

Richard Wills

Anne Harrison

Ruzenka Hines

Lyndall Bigland

Greg Halliday

Fiona Close-Stray

Michelle Bowater

Kylie Hall

Wendy West

Debra Gook

Carolyn Drenen

Angela Sortino

Catherine Dooling

Claire Crawford

Heather Ballard

Robyn Jones

Geoffrey Threlfall

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Allison Easden

Lynden Haines

Bianca Wren

Ingrid O'Brien

Stacy Kay

Angela Devoti

Karen Hampshire

Terence Tuohey

Amanda Finger

Anne Lepp

Lisa McClure

Aderanti Oguntade

Alison Green

Christina Pesavento

Philippa Davison

Noel Sharrock

Saji Chathanchirayil

Lynda Meola

Sonia Mathew

Christine Maskell

Sarah Ferguson

Janine Novotny

Bridget Cole

Aimee Brond

Julie Mawson

Sandra Reither

Neil Warneke

Amy Dainton

Beverley Johnson

Kim Martin

Michelle Beer

Wendy Cazaly

Nicole Cumming

Natalie Millen



Seven staff celebrated an incredible 40 years working at GV Health across various areas, seeing many technological changes and ongoing developments across all campuses. Here's what some had to say about their time at GV Health:

- "It's been a good ride." – Judith Baker
- "I've made lots of lifelong friends over the years." – Lisa Thomas
- "I've loved my time working as a midwife and visiting mothers and babies." – Catherine Meredith
- "It's been a wonderful 40 years of friendships and the honour of looking after the community and always learning, plus continually having to reinvent yourself to meet the needs of nursing." – Donna Rooney



The GV Health Rushworth campus is home to several staff who have served for many years, from 10 years of service all the way up to 35 years.



More Graham Street campus staff celebrated lengthy terms of service in all areas, from clinical to administrative and everything in between.



Carmel Wileman is celebrating 30 years at the Tatura campus.

Jodie Stradling

Michelle Balchin

Sharon Etherington

Bernadette Snelling

Tracy Lawford

Joanne Fry

Evelyna Fitton

Christine Ezard

Karlein Burn

Joanne Simm

Stacey Davies

Fakalepa Tautala

Maura Malya

Ellen Peacoulakis

Monique Camm

Laura Canning

Sally Thomas

Kristin D'Agruma

Bridget Hurley

Rosina Campi

Leasa Rabl

Julie McNamara

Deborah Sizer

Kellie Adams

Melissa Nicoll

Melanie Fraser

Carolyn Kamenjarin

Linley Smith

Deborah Maxfield

Sandra Ryan

Shannon O'Brien

Sonya Treacy

Tanya Reid

Janene Pogue

Cynthia Scott

Gracie Shephard

Mary-Ann Fogarty

Susan Bennett

Lyn Paterson

Adrian Pensak

Grant Fenn

Robyn Lenon

Esther Oguntade

Narelle Maxted

Rosemary McIntosh

Sian Hudson

Nicole Poole

Meredith Stephens

Virginia Trewin

Anne McKenzie

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Andrea Kiel

Gary Botheras

Justine James

Stephaniel Veal

Nicole Ryan

Heather Mason

Bindu Kuruvila

Julie Duffy

Julie Spillman

Julie Henderson

Carole Mott

Vibhay Raykar

Katherine Dainton

Georgina Doyle

Linda Bryant

Kerrie Fitzpatrick

Christopher Wijesingha

Salin George

Dino Manalo

Paul Moffatt

Penny Whelan

Peter Willis

Elizabeth Jenkins

Raju Gudivada Venkata

Lakshmana

Sonya Hill

Nicole Gleeson

Jacinta Brown

Arup Bhattacharya

Denise Leyden

Judith Chalupa

Ashley Rowe

Georgia Hoare

Gigi Paul

Anu Antony

Kellie Cashmore

Veronica Joseph

Lorien Barrie

Kathryn Goodall

Susan Lott

Oluwafemi Jegede

Jaala Dudley

Rossana Espagne

Smithamol Paul

Kylea Price

Kathryn Chapman

Noella Taylor

Florence Chikwanha

Debra Shelley

Lynda Morrison

Anne Van Dorsser

Carol Collie

Michelle Walker

Suzanne Wallis

Todd Hunter

Jaynee Johnston

Khalid Hassan

Jan Brown

Tejraj Tawde

Debra Pell

Catherine Bould

Sarwan Mudaliar

Helen Kavoukas

Rajlaxmi Khopade

Rawan Shamri

Madison Brett

Esther Jegede

Claire Atkins

Rory Contreras

Jennifer MacCurrach

Usha Kolandaivel

Molly Jones

Renee Salihovic

Carolyn Steward

Angela Moncrieff

Rebecca McAllister

Warren Norton

Karisma Gounder

Hannah Mortlock

Jacinda Lawrence

Susan Pearce

Leonie Campbell

Kristy Sharp

Wendy Hutcheson

Mirella Latorre

Josephine Mann

Linda Maxwell

Lisa Pearson

Cukkoo Anna Raju

Hima Jose

Brooke McLachlan

Sarah Mackay

Robert Daniel

Fayyaz Akhtar

Deborah Bagley

Tejas Golhar

Peta Clark

Hamid Pirouznia

Malanie Gajanayaka

Melissa Prossor

Rebecca Monk

Mandy McGrath

Glenn Ryan

Gurpreet Kaur

Sheridan Hicks

Meg Stonehouse

Emma Wagdin

Mathew Kurian

Neeru Negi

GVPHU: Caring for regional people



The Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit partners with many different health services, councils, community groups and First Nations organisations to improve the community's health.

WHAT IS THE GV PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT?

The GV Public Health Unit (GVPHU) is one of nine public health units across metropolitan and regional Victoria, established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GVPHU is funded by the Victorian Government and works closely with the Victorian Health Department to deliver services for northern Victoria.

Goulburn Valley Health leads the GVPHU, which partners with the other nine public health services, seven local councils, community organisations and First Nations organisations to use collective local knowledge to protect everyone's health at a community level.

The catchment area includes Greater Shepparton, Moira Shire, Mitchell Shire, Strathbogie Shire, Benalla City, Mansfield and Murrundindi Shire.

OUR PEOPLE

Our team is made up of public health doctors, infection prevention nurses, epidemiologists, public health officers, contact tracers, communication and engagement specialists, and administration assistants. Each team member is integral to the overall work of GVPHU.

Just like the region the GVPHU represents, our team is made up of individuals from all over the Goulburn Valley region so we understand the communities we service.

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE GVPHU?

The GVPHU has engaged with the community and other organisations throughout the year to provide support and advice to diverse groups, from farmers to First Nations people.

On November 24, the GVPHU visited Dookie and Euroa with AgriSafe, a non-profit organisation that works to reduce health disparities in the agricultural community. There, farmers and agricultural workers could access the Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccine and talk to AgriSafe representatives about their physical and mental health.

The GVPHU vaccination team supported the community with COVID-19 vaccination, contact tracing and outreach services throughout the year.



Jabba the Bus helps provide accessible vaccination, which is part of the GVPHU's mission to support the community's health.

The GVPHU regularly partners with a range of community organisations such as sport clubs, ethnic associations and social groups to help keep diverse communities engaged, supported, and informed.

Alongside COVID Positive Pathway experts, we have delivered community information sessions for diverse peoples, including those with a refugee or migrant background, in Shepparton. These sessions let people ask questions about vaccines and be vaccinated if they choose to.

We have also brought our mobile vaccination service Jabba the Bus to various events, including the Out in the Open Festival Carnival Day in Queen's Gardens in Shepparton.

Having easily accessible vaccination and health outreach at popular public events is part of our mission to support our community's health.

Excitingly, the GVPHU team recently partnered with the Department of Health to conduct a study on JE prevalence in the community through a serosurvey.

Public health officers attended pathology centres in Yarrawonga and Cobram to talk to community members about JE and encourage them to participate in the study.

The team worked with local services NCN Health,



The GVPHU works closely with the Department of Health to deliver services to regional Victorians, including vaccination to the agricultural community.

Yarrawonga Health, Moira Shire Council, and Greater Shepparton City Council to use collective local knowledge and understanding to promote the study and vaccination against JE and mosquito-borne disease.

They also worked with community members to share stories of JE, to help the community better understand the risk.

HOW DO WE LOOK AFTER REGIONAL PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

We have provided health and wellbeing presentations and support at various regular groups, such as Rotary meetings and discussions on children's health.

There, our staff help facilitate discussion on mental and physical health, as well as general wellbeing in a group-specific way which helps community members access information in a friendly environment that's specific to them.

We have also had the privilege to participate in health-centred discussions with other health services and organisations, which allows for collaboration on ideas and issues focused on specific groups.

The GVPHU is excited to continue engaging with these organisations and community members to address the ideas that have originated from these sessions.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our health protection team provide on-site visits by an infection prevention and control specialist to provide the close supportive and collaborative role for when our aged care facilities or health services have an outbreak.

The GVPHU has also worked with aged care providers to increase preparedness for outbreak management in their facilities, with the GVPHU leading the State in this work.



Our health service is growing and we've got the job for you

A MOVE THAT'S PAID OFF

Jess Goodwin began her career journey in her hometown of Sydney, and now works as a Grade 3 Physiotherapist at GV Health Shepparton.

"I heard good things about GV Health and Shepparton from another physio, she said she really enjoyed her time here, as in the team, gym and facilities were great," Jess said.

Jess submitted her application for GV Health and was soon offered a Grade 1 Physiotherapist position. It included a month of paid accommodation to support her relocation, which she found eased her move significantly.

Jess has now worked at GV Health for five years and lives in Shepparton with her partner and two 'fur babies', finding enjoyment in her time off with various day trips to Shepparton's surrounds.

"It's been great for making friends, especially working in the hospital's Physiotherapy Department ... we've just built a house last year so we're getting fairly established now," Jess said, adding the team around her had always been supportive of her development.

GV Health offers a range of professional development and career progression opportunities.

"They've always supported me and given me opportunities during the time I've worked here, if we're interested in new areas, there's support to move there," Jess said.

She recommends anyone who is thinking about making the decision to move to give it a go.

"I think it's a great place to work and I think there's a really good culture here."



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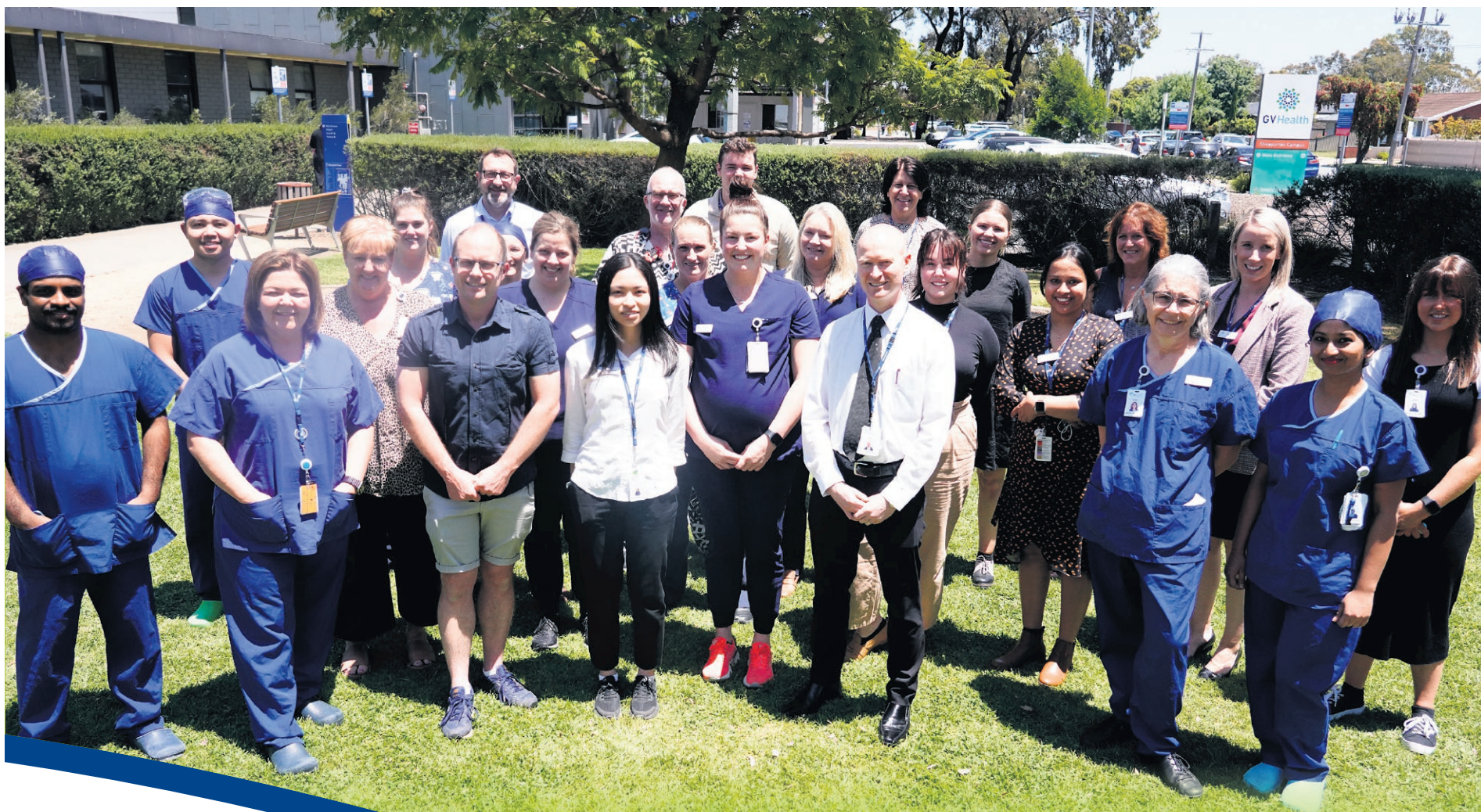
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- ★ Our CREATE Outstanding reward & recognition program
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