



# GV Health Board Directors Share Perspectives on Future Healthcare

THE GOULBURN VALLEY HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GV HEALTH. THEIR GUIDANCE AND EXPERTISE ARE INSTRUMENTAL IN ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF THE HEALTHCARE SERVICE. AHEAD OF THE UPCOMING NEW STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH, EACH DIRECTOR SHARES INSIGHTS ON GV HEALTH'S FUTURE.



**Michael Delahunty** Chairperson

"For more than 40 years as a health administrator, I have been involved in regional and rural health services. This experience has confirmed, in my view, that as a leader of a rural health service we need to prioritise and be strategic to avoid the erosion of health services available to the community.

"Since I commenced as a board director at GV Health in July 2020, we have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic and floods which have posed significant challenges, but at the same time provided several highlights that confirmed

the importance of local health services and their ability to be resilient no matter what challenges they are confronted with.

"The single biggest challenge for GV Health is maintaining and growing our workforce. This high priority objective will require us to be committed to supporting the current workforce and innovative in training and recruiting the expanded workforce."

**Jo Breen**

"I joined the GV Health board primarily as a consumer and member of the community that GV Health services, wanting to bring that perspective to the table.

"We are so fortunate to have incredible staff who have shown just how committed they are to their work, their patients and their community. That came to light so fundamentally during the COVID-19 challenges, and to be able to sustain an exceptional level of commitment and steady workforce, we need to be agile, compassionate and

flexible, while not compromising care. That is difficult but our staff are partners in the workforce of the future and how it looks and feels.

"It is exciting to work on strategies that offer the opportunity for staff to learn, to maintain levels of excellence we can all be proud of and to help attract staff to work at GV Health."



**Michael Tehan** OAM

"During my time as a member of the board, a significant improvement in leadership of GV Health has ensured a stronger focus on patient and people care, services and recognition of staff and the broader workforce, and the necessity to attract and retain medical and allied health staff. It has also recognised that the new building program and its full completion are critical to adequate health services being available in our region, as well as supporting integrated population health, and primary and acute care in our region.

"The new strategic plan is an aspirational and foundational document for better and coordinated primary and acute healthcare across the region. It ensures that GV Health enables people to receive high quality and specialist healthcare as close to their home as possible.

"This is important as GV Health strives to be sufficiently flexible to meet the demands of government health service reforms, changing health needs and labour shortages."

**Dr Richard King** AM

"In my work on the GV Health board, I bring the perspective of a long and fruitful career in medical practice, research and teaching, including 20 years as Head of Medicine at Monash Health, and serving at the highest levels across a broad range of medical peak bodies, research institutes, government advisory committees and other health sector organisations.

"The workforce and our strategic role in the region are two major priorities that the strategic plan addresses. Another important focus is on our communities, as there are many diverse communities within the area and in particular the

Indigenous community in the Goulburn Valley.

"The number one and outstanding strategic challenge is the medical workforce shortage, which makes expansion of services very difficult.

"The second challenge is really an opportunity: to expand the role of GV Health as the regional centre for the Hume region. Working towards gaining services such as interventional cardiology and a cancer centre will reduce the need for people of the Goulburn Valley to have to go to Melbourne for treatment."





## Victor Sekulov

"I have been involved in public health and the health system for more than 30 years and bring a myriad of experiences ranging from small rehab hospitals to major teaching hospitals. I have a broad spectrum of experience that I can bring to the organisation as well as a different cultural perspective, as I was born here but my parents are from southern Europe.

"I am highly impressed by the quality and integrity of the GV Health board, and while the community may not get the

opportunity very often to see the work we do, I can assure them they are in very good hands.

That stewardship comes out in the strategic plan, and when you look at it you see the passion and vision that drives the board. Despite COVID-19 and the challenges faced by regional hospitals, there's a strong sense of optimism, and I think that is very important for the future."



## Cathy Jones

"I've worked for 30 years in healthcare services, managing quality, risk and clinical governance – lecturing, podcasting and researching. My priority is making sure everyone has the best possible patient experience and health outcome when they need treatment and care.

"In the past four years, GV Health has gone from strength to strength in improving the quality of care provided to the community. I visit a lot of other regional services around Australia, and GV Health stands out as a leader in its focus

on the patients and clients that come to our services.

"There's a focus on measurement of outcomes within our strategic plan – in terms of positive ratings by patients, lower hospital acquired complications, faster access to care and improved wellbeing. The plan will further enhance our ability to achieve goals that matter most to patients and families."



## Nicole Inglis

"As a resident of Shepparton, I have been a consumer of not only GV Health but other local services. I hope that experience, combined with my background in law and experience on health boards, ensures the health and wellbeing of GV Health consumers and staff continues to improve.

"We have made important progress, including the gradual completion of part of our redevelopment, but the service has been significantly challenged through COVID-19. As a board, we are so proud of how our staff not only managed

for so long but continue to work through the challenges faced in providing healthcare.

"The new plan provides a reinvigorated approach for the board, our staff and our community to focus in the next three years. The direction provided by the plan, underpinned by the values of our organisation, will ensure we can continue to grow our outstanding healthcare within our region."



## Michael Milne

"I bring a background in financial management, external audit and risk experience to the GV Health board. Having lived locally for the last 30 years, I have also experienced GV Health as a patient or relative of a patient on several occasions.

"The opportunities for innovation in care delivery, educational and career development of staff and the ability for the local community to receive more treatment locally have been a challenge for the health service, combined with the challenge of recruitment.

"The new strategic plan continues the journey of previous plans, expanding a great community asset, and it is important that GV Health can access a greater range of services locally, reducing the need for travel to a metropolitan service.

"When you, a family member, friend or colleague needs care, whether it be emergency, surgery, oncology, or allied health, it is comforting to know that care can be delivered close to home at GV Health."



## Dr Julia Cornwell McKean

"I am the mayor of Berrigan Shire Council and many members of my community travel to Shepparton for healthcare, including to GV Health. I have a strong interest in ensuring quality health services are available to the Goulburn Valley community and being on the board allows me to be part of that.

"The focus on health equity in regional areas has really stood out to me during the planning stages of the strategic

plan. I have lived in Melbourne for most of my life and it is very clear that the regions do not have the same access to health services that those in the city do. It is essential in my view that every effort is made to ensure that does not continue to be the case and I am proud to be on a board that is committed to this and to be accountable to people in the region on this front."

