



24 August 2015

Ms Monica Kelly  
Health Lead  
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**Latrobe Community  
Health Service Ltd**  
ABN: 74 136 502 022

Dear Monica

### Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

All correspondence:  
PO Box 960  
Morwell 3840

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with yourself, Professor John Catford, Professor Don Campbell, Justice Bernie Geary and Justine Stansen recently to discuss the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry. Following on from this, I would like to provide a summary of the main points that we wished to highlight.

**Morwell Centre**  
81-87 Buckley Street  
Morwell 3840

We appreciated the opportunity to focus on the future health of Latrobe and in particular the Morwell community. It is widely recognised that the community has suffered from severe social and health disadvantage and that any strategies to improve the health of the community would need to address these social determinants.

**Bairnsdale Centre**  
68 Macleod Street  
Bairnsdale 3875

We advised that the community is familiar with seeing government initiatives come and go before any measurable outcomes have been achieved. To be effective any new initiatives that are implemented to improve the health of the community must be sustainable and not discontinued with changes in government leadership. We suggested that any new initiatives be linked to the long term health study to leverage off its longevity of 20 years.

**Churchill Centre**  
20-24 Philip Parade  
Churchill 3842

**Moe Centre**  
42-44 Fowler Street  
Moe 3825

We proposed that some of the strengths of the recently defunded Healthy Together Latrobe could be retained and funded over the long term particularly the:

**Sale Centre**  
52 Macarthur Street  
Sale 3850

**Traralgon Centre**  
Cnr Princes Hwy &  
Seymour Street  
Traralgon 3844

- **Health Champions program** – supporting community members to build knowledge and skill to positively impact on health. 240 current health champions are registered to provide community intelligence into planning or future support. They can play a role in perceptions and matters that are important to the community
- **Achievement program in schools and workplaces** – provides a framework for supporting health in schools and workplaces. It promotes a culture of health and community action, by increasing awareness of health issues

**Warragul Centre**  
122 Albert Street  
Warragul 3820

**Wonthaggi Centre**  
86-88 Graham Street  
Wonthaggi 3995

We spoke of the potential valuable leadership that could be provided by the Health Conservation Zone if it was constructed well and committed to over the long term. Strong trusted leadership could help the community to think beyond the short term financial impacts and opportunities e.g. vouchers, damage to cars, insurance claims, and engage it in activities that will address long term disadvantage.

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If there is an appointment of an independent chair/commissioner for the Conservation Zone we believe they need the skill, ability, profile, respect, networks and standing to influence key decision makers i.e. regional and state; and mobilise the community. Any initiatives must however engage strongly with community groups that have expertise at the grass roots level i.e. Apex, Rotary.

Whilst there are some existing community action groups advocating on health issues we believe there is a need for community communication, which is prompt, regular, trusted, consistent, and reliable. We also believe that there is a need to regularly report against a dashboard of community health indicators to the community in order to engage it effectively in its own health improvement

Thankyou again for the opportunity to contribute to the reopened Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ben Leigh', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ben Leigh  
**Chief Executive Officer**