

# **HOPE** Restart Centre Inc

ABN 21 577 153 734    ARBN A0096271F



## **PROSPECTUS**

**FOR CONTRIBUTION TO  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GIPPSLAND  
RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE REHABILITATION CENTRE  
IN BAIRNSDALE, EAST GIPPSLAND**

**Donations may be made to:  
Hope Restart Centre Inc  
Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 Account No 157891169**

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## Objectives

- Construction and establishment of a centre for management and treatment of substance abuse clients and families in East Gippsland
- Advancing mental and physical health, education, vocational opportunities, and social welfare for substance abuse clients
- Reconnecting clients with family, community and sports
- Utilise professionally trained volunteers and assessed clients to provide programs to educate community in awareness, tolerance and compassion

## The Pathway



## Purpose of This Prospectus

- Identify the need
- Our approach to the need
- Cost of the solution
- Evidence our organisation is best equipped to provide the solution

## Identify the Need

- Whole of **Gippsland** Community need for a local regional substance abuse rehabilitation centre to complete the jigsaw of existing professional services
- Urgency
  - The gross state and national unavailability of residential rehabilitation venues and integrated services
  - The growing statistics in substance abuse
- Supporting data
  - Evidence of the need has been derived from hospitals, police, and medical & community service providers, and personal testimony
  - Odyssey House Victoria and Health Professionals are supporting this country location to complement existing services as a complete the solution pathway

## Our Approach to the Need

- How the need has been addressed
  - The initial local five person interim board sought and received a great deal of local and far reaching support from many sources (see footnote 1)
  - A permanent board was appointed in September 2016
  - A not-for-profit incorporated association has been registered and is registered with the Australian Charities and Non-Profit Commission
  - Public meetings have been held and received in a very positive manner
  - Partnerships have been negotiated with –
    - Odyssey House Victoria for the management of the rehabilitation component of the centre
    - Supporting Health Professionals to provide necessary post-rehabilitation oversight assistance
  - Negotiations are advanced with Federation University and Federation Training for the management of the ancillary education/skills component of the centre
  - Richard Rijs, founding managing director of Patties Foods Ltd, appointed as patron of the organisation (see Footnote 2)
  - Negotiations are proceeding in relation to accessibility to, and lease of, a substantial block of land (see Footnote 7)
  - Evidence this approach will produce a positive outcome comes from the confidence, support, and acceptance of our invitation to manage the rehabilitation component by Odyssey House Victoria, and assistance of Supporting Health Professionals and Federation University, and strong local support

## Cost

- Initially set as a 50/100 bed facility, extensive construction consultation with Odyssey Victoria has resolved planning for 12 additional accommodation beds, larger meeting rooms and crèche, more office space, solar power, together with diesel auxiliary power and internal fire fence under new Health & Safety Regulations – ground plan (see footnote 6)
- Extended plan is a multi-million dollar capital & recurrent operating cost commitment
- Length of construction is expected to be 6 months following all approvals, including funding approvals
- Funding strategy comprises government, public and private grants and donations

## The Organisation

- A not-for profit incorporated association with a view to convert to a public company with limited guarantees at the appropriate time where required
- Why is the organisation best to provide solution to the need
  - Locally administered
  - Professionally managed by established and recognised organisations
  - Clear evidence of the integrity and experience of Board Members – Executive (footnote 3), Committee (footnote 4) and Project Officer (footnote 5)

## Footnote 1: List of those that agree there is a need for a residential rehabilitation centre in Gippsland to treat Gippsland clients

**Ambulance Victoria** *Simon Walsh*, **Supporting Health Professionals** *Jane Anderson and Dennis Minster*, **Bairnsdale Regional Hospital** *CEO Therese Tierney & Alcohol and Drug Nurse Sue Dunkley*, **Bairnsdale Police Superintendent** *Luke Smeaton*, **Barrier Breakers** *Derek Amos*, **Anglican Diocese of Gippsland** *Bishop Kay Goldsworthy*, **Broken Homes of Bairnsdale & District** *Supporting family & friends of substance abuse victims*, **Café Church Forums** *held on drugs and substance*, **Changing Lanes** *Michael Nelson*, **Federal MP for East Gippsland, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport** *Darren Chester*, **Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative** *CEO Lionel Dukakis*, **Gippsland Land & Water Aboriginal Co-operative** *Ricky Mullett & Grattan Mullett*, **Federation Training** *Executive Director Karen Bird*, **Federation University** *Dr Harry Ballis (now retired), Geraldine Jones & Dr Stuart Levy*, **State Member Victorian Legislative Council Eastern Victoria** *Harriet Shing*, **Gippsland Lakes Community Health** *CEO Sue Medson OAM*, **Local Churches, East Gippsland Shire** *Mayor Joe Rettino & Planning Manager of Statutory Services Aaron Hollows* **Netball Victoria, Odyssey House** *Dr Stefan Gruenert & Tim Flora*, **Tennis Victoria, The Dahlsen Family, Transformations, State MP for East Gippsland** *Tim Bull MP, Workways* *Brian McCormick*

## Footnote 2: Patron

### PATRON



**Richard Rijs**

One of the founding family who established Patties Foods in East Gippsland, Richard retired from his role as Managing Director at the end of 2007. He lives in Lakes Entrance with his wife, Marlene, and near his three children and their families, including seven grandchildren.

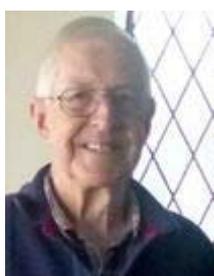
Richard has been -

- A Director with the Lakes Entrance Fisherman's Co – op.
- A Director of Snowy River Seeds.
- Treasurer of the Victorian Bakers Association.
- Member of the Australian Society of Bakers.
- On the Regional Development Advisory Committee, which assists the Minister for Regional and Rural Development in formulating policy to improve the outlook for regional Victoria,
- Non-Executive Director of Davies Bakery Pty. Ltd.

Currently, Richard is -

- Chair of the East Gippsland Marketing Board.
- Non-Executive Director of Patties Foods Limited.
- Has investments in several start-up businesses and is Director of three of them.

## Footnote 3: Board Executive Members



**Peter Down**

Joint initiator with his wife, Margaret, of the vision for the centre, Peter Down has been resident of Bairnsdale since 1972.

Married in 1982, Peter and Margaret have eight adult children and thirteen grandchildren between them.

Peter has retired as a commercial and residential builder, having been involved in building houses, units and churches in Bairnsdale and East Gippsland since coming to East Gippsland.

Peter and Margaret are very active members of the Anglican Church where Peter is a Lay Reader and Warden, and they feel that God has put this project on their hearts due to the great need there is in our society today, and it is their desire to see it brought to fruition.



**John Glynn** FCPA

John Glynn commenced commercial life with the Australian Taxation Office in Melbourne in 1967 before acquiring a hotel with family in Bairnsdale in 1974.

Qualifying as an accountant in 1971, he is a former sole accounting practitioner and a former partner, financial planner, finance broker, and current senior associate with Eager and Partners Accountants.

John has experience in residential and commercial building and was a co-founder and director of a timber drying and processing plant in Bairnsdale. He has held committee positions on the Bairnsdale Chamber of Commerce, held a board position as treasurer with Lakes and Wilderness Tourism Association and was founding president of the former Bairnsdale Business & Tourism Association.

A father of three, he has been formally recognised by Tennis Victoria for his service to tennis.

**Peter Neal**

Peter Neal a proud 5<sup>th</sup> generation East Gippslander.

After education at Swan Reach Primary and Bairnsdale Technical College, Peter went to Melbourne, primarily to play sport, where he met and married Maree. Now living in Bairnsdale having had three children, he has had several successful businesses over the years, currently in home giftware.

A committed community person, Peter has enjoyed volunteering in several community groups as well as travelling overseas to volunteer in areas such as Thailand and Cambodia with building programs.

Peter felt privileged to be invited to be involved in this very exciting project to assist in East Gippsland, and looks forward to the whole of community getting involved in this very important Project.

He is a past East Gippsland Shire Councillor having served as Mayor in the 2014/2015 year.

**Tony Ward B.Laws**

Tony Ward is a partner of the Legal Firm of Wards Barristers & Solicitors at Bairnsdale which was established in 1981.

He is a resident of Bairnsdale and is married to Sharon and they have four children.

Tony was a past Board Member of Bairnsdale Regional Health Service for twelve years, and Chair of Nagle College School Council for six years.

Enjoys Family, Golf & Bushwalking.

## Footnote 4: Board Committee Members

**Julie Barling**

Julie Barling has been the CEO of Wood Street Windows PL for the past fifteen years.

Previously, Julie worked in the banking sector for twenty years in roles such as management, finance, human resources and retail services.

She lives in Bairnsdale, is married to Shane and they have two children.

Julie recognises the value of locals and businesses supporting this project and sees her deep involvement with the business community as a huge asset to the Centre's vision.

**David Pollard**

David Pollard moved with his family to Bairnsdale when he was four years old and completed his primary schooling in town and attended Nagle College for his secondary education.

An accomplished golfer, David left the region at twenty years of age for employment opportunities, returning to Bairnsdale after thirteen years married with two children.

An accountant, David worked for firms in Bairnsdale until 2013 when he established his own firm setting up Pollard Accounting.

Having spent eight years on the school Council at the Lindenow Primary School, five as president, David offers a great deal of organisational experience, and as current treasurer at Bairnsdale Golf Club since 2013, and Deputy Chair of Nagle College School Council for three years, he is in a sound position to help the Centre succeed.

**Rod Parker**

Rod Parker is a resident of Eagle Point and has been involved in assisting recovering addicts on their journey over the last 30 years, based on his own experience, and has been on multiple committees with Narcotics Anonymous, hospitals and prisons.

Rod is a qualified Project Manager in OH&S, Training, Assessing and Construction and has extensive well-honed skills in safety, pre-contract preparation, dispute resolution, negotiation and general site management, including in cross cultural contexts.

Experienced in construction of facilities up to \$100m, Rod has specialised in cost effectiveness to Australian and International Standards having worked in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Western Samoa, India, Victorian Alpine Region and Bairnsdale.



Footnote 7: Proposed Site



### A Local Mother's Story

Having researched first hand all of the services in our Gippsland region providing programs to the community one local mother has a complete understanding of the Alcohol & Other Drug sector in Gippsland.

"The sector basically doesn't work on a needs basis.

The destruction of my family began in early 2015, when my teenage daughter overdosed on ice.

By February 2016, she was pleading to go to rehab, but there was NO help available without an extended wait time. We began a home supervised detox program through a community project two hours from our home town, and my daughter remained clean for over two months, while I exhausted every avenue to gain placement for her in a residential rehabilitation centre.

She had a major relapse and is active to date due to lack of services and support, not only in our area, but Victoria and Australia wide. My daughter became completely dysfunctional and can barely undertake the most basic of normal day to day living tasks. The nearest day rehabilitation program is a 90 minute drive, and she would only benefit after full recovery in a residential rehab program.

Had help been readily accessible, her current outcome would have been a lot different.

In country areas, the only help available is weekly counselling sessions, or weekly appointments with a withdrawal nurse.

Addicts are addicts 24 hours a day, not once a week. Through my experience helping my daughter, the limited resources which are available, are stretched to the limit.

I have created three different scenarios in our lives –

- A mother with an addicted child who wants help for her child, not understanding you cannot help them until they want help themselves
- An addict who wants rehabilitation, and
- A parent wanting help in understanding their loved one in active addiction.

I rang all services from the border through to Traralgon and was told the same thing every time I rang. One needs to do an Australian Community Support Organisation assessment either via the phone or in person and then they will send it off to Gippsland Lakes Community Health or Latrobe Health and someone will be in touch to make an appointment for an intake assessment to establish needs, after which some counselling sessions are offered.

If detoxing at home, you will be linked up with the withdrawal nurse, and there is only one from Bairnsdale to the border. It can take a couple of weeks to get an appointment with a counsellor as all resources in the Gippsland region are stretched to the limit. While waiting for appointments, I was told to maybe go and see a local GP, or link in with Narcotics Anonymous (NA) or Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

If one is in recovery, or has just come out of some sort of rehabilitation, and has just come back to the Gippsland region, the lack of help is the same. All that is offered is counselling, having a good GP, maybe linking in with NA or AA.

There are no programs like day rehabilitation in our immediate area. The closest one is in Moe and, once again, you have to go through all the assessments before you can have an appointment to see someone who will help you with your recovery and help you stay focused.

There just is no help in country areas pre or post on a timely basis, and the wait time to get into rehabilitation is just unacceptable. Addicts will be back out using before they have a chance at getting clean.

Yet the services provided actually want to provide better backup and integration through the whole of the rehabilitation process.

In May 2015, local State Member Tim Bull was visited advising him a support group was needed in Bairnsdale, and a community forum should be held to help educate the community on our drug problem and maybe try to find ways on improving the treatment process.

Several meetings were held with Ken Lay (Ice Addition Program) and the heads of the East Gippsland football league and in July the forum was held, with 300 attendees. It proved that we have a huge problem in our area and something needs to be done.

Through the love and support of some amazing friends who have also had loved ones in active addiction, the support group called Broken Homes of Bairnsdale and District has been formed for the families who have loved ones addicted to ice and other drugs.

On 11 August 2015 the first Broken Homes meeting was held, and since the start new members are coming through our doors every week wanting help, support, education and advice. All the parents that come say the same thing "there just isn't enough help or rehabilitation beds available".

Broken Homes are doing everything possible to help the families but the region desperately need a residential rehabilitation centre to complement existing services which will subsequently be able to work in a more integrated and expanding environment"