



**Mallee Track Health &
Community Service**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW FOUNDATION LAUNCHED FOR MALLEE TRACK

MALLEE residents are being asked to throw their support behind a new registered charity established to raise money for the Mallee Track Health and Community Service (MTHCS).

The Foundation of Mallee Track will operate separately from the health service, but its sole beneficiary will be MTHCS.

"The Foundation of Mallee Track aims to fill the gaps between government funding sources and help make it possible for MTHCS to do more to provide the best care for our communities," explained Foundation founder and director, Howard Crothers.

"Government funding is often provided for a specific use only, which means money is not always available for important items or training that we need here in the Mallee. For example, the first thing the Foundation is raising money for is two patient transport and critical care defibrillator machines for the Urgent Care Centres in Sea Lake and Ouyen."

Mr Crothers said the Foundation was also raising money for a Workforce Scholarship program that will operate over the next five years. This program will help MTHCS staff members access important training and education to improve skills and knowledge.

"A significant amount of planning has gone into setting up the Foundation and we are very committed to ensuring it remains clearly focused on ensuring all money raised goes directly to what our communities need most," Mr Crothers said.

"The foundation is overseen by a board of seven local directors, all of whom have a proud history of supporting health services in our communities over many years. Their professional expertise and connection to Mallee communities will be critical to people understanding the need for the Foundation and supporting it into the future."

The Directors overseeing the Foundation of Mallee Track alongside Mr Crothers are Greg Vallance, Keith Erhardt, Terry Elliot, Philip Down, Leanne Boyd and Mark Wilson.

Speaking at the official launch of the Foundation in Ouyen on 19 April 2022, Mr Crothers encouraged local residents to support the Foundation.

"Communities along the Mallee Track have a proud history of looking after each other; it's something we've always done. By supporting the Foundation, Mallee people can continue to support each other and know that every dollar raised will go directly to the things our communities need most when it comes to healthcare," Mr Crothers said.

Mr Crothers said the work of the Foundation would strengthen and complement the work of existing auxiliaries.

The Foundation has deductible Gift Recipient status, which enables anyone to donate and receive a tax benefit for all donations over \$2.

More information on how to support the Foundation of Mallee Track is available at www.mthcs.com.au or via email to foundation@mthcs.vic.gov.au

For interviews or further information contact MTHCS CEO Lois O'Callaghan (03) 5092 1111