

## July to September 2016 Health Advisory Council News

This quarter saw the finalising and approval of the items required in all three sites – Maitland, Minlaton and Yorketown – for purchase in this financial year. An amount of \$68395.00 was approved, which will see:

- + Improvements for client care and comfort in the Chappell Wing with new lifters, chairs, and sound system.
- + New beds and mattresses for Melaleuca Court
- + New trolley for patient care in the acute sector of Maitland Hospital

To name a few.

There has been much discussion around replacement window dressings of both blinds and curtains in the Maitland Hospital, and the HAC would like to thank the Friends of Maitland Hospital who have stepped up to the plate and undertaken the replacement of curtains in various areas of the hospital, while the HAC continues to look into the replacement of blinds.

Those of you passing through Maitland will no doubt have noted the improved appearance of the front of the hospital with the completion of stage one of the garden upgrade. It was disappointing that some plants were stolen, but heartening when community members again donated to replace the missing plants. Stage two is currently on the drawing board.

Further points for consideration by the HAC have been the condition and use of the two properties in Maitland - one in Junction Road and one in Thomas Street. The uses and viability of these buildings are currently under scrutiny as the HAC looks for the best outcome to provide accommodation for staff and medical workers.

This month saw the opening of the Renal Unit at Maitland, with the HAC allocating funding to assist with refurbishment of the old renal unit area into a more suitable Palliative Care facility.

We are looking forward to hearing from Anne-Marie Kelly, guest speaker at the AGM at Minlaton. She is the Home Care Package Co-Ordinator, and with packages of care being the future of health, the more information we can gather, the better informed the community will be about the choices available to them in the future. We are very keen to hear from community members about any concern you have regarding our health system and it is part of the role of the HAC to advocate on the community's behalf.