23rd July 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Local Council Representation Review

I write on behalf of Banyule Community Health, a significant stakeholder and partner of Banyule Council in the delivery of a range of health and wellbeing services and initiatives across the municipality.

Banyule Community Health welcomes the VEC review, to ensure our local democratic processes are working in the best interests of all of our local community. We acknowledge that such a process may well encourage others in the community to identify their preferred models of representation.

Banyule Community Health would like to take this opportunity to raise a few key points for the review

- the importance of socially disadvantaged areas / suburbs having clearly defined boundaries and representatives. Any possibility of these communities being split could lead to issues requiring attention being diluted.
- the importance that the process creates opportunities to identify and unearth new leaders in our community and represent the demographic changes occurring
- that the process strengthen community representation, particularly for those communities that find themselves on the boundaries of the council area.

Banyule Community Health has a strong presence in the local community, with daily involvement in local issues. The local community often comment on the importance of local democratic representation that enables community to both know their local ward councillor and have access to them when required. Any review of representation should strongly consider the importance of this fundamentally important aspect of local government.

I hope these matters have been of use to this review process.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

Mick Geary
Chief Executive Officer
Banyule Community Health