

BANYULE COMMUNITY HEALTH WEST HEIDELBERG CENTRE



The Banyule Community Health West Heidelberg Centre, is built on the historic site of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Village Administration block.

This heritage has not been lost on the Banyule Community Health Service (BCH) nor the services it provided from the old Administration block for the best part of more than three decades.

However, through the progress of time and community needs, the block has given way to the needs of the future with the special, architecturally designed purpose-built facility which makes maximum use of its location.

The Centre covers two floors and is divided into three functional areas which take advantage of natural lighting and winter sunshine, along with a native plants and shrubs landscaped garden.

Despite this new environment, the Centre's historical links with the Olympics and the health and welfare services provided by the BCHS are acknowledged in the new building, dating back to 1973 when a local committee advocated for the need for a Community Centre.

The work of this committee and many other people who have helped build the services and programs of the BCHS over the past 30 years are acknowledged in the new Centre with rooms named after them for their contributions.

Not surprisingly, the philosophy of the service in its foundation days is similar to what it is today:

- High quality and low cost
- Accessibility
- Integrated health and welfare services
- Encouragement of community participation
- Work closely with other agencies

Among the former community leaders to be acknowledged in the Centre with rooms named after them for their contributions, include:

- Mary Hawkes (nee Morgan) who wrote the first submission for the West Heidelberg Centre when she was a Heidelberg City Council Social Worker,
- Bill Newton, the Centre's first CEO, and
- Thomas Rossell, Ron Haining, Ron Brown, Bernie Geary, Betty Carter, Beryl Burkett and Wendy Ogden.

Further information contact
Jim Pasinis
Chief Executive Officer
Banyule Community Health Service
Tel: 9450-2010