

MEDIA RELEASE

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Medical & legal expertise enhance Mansfield District Hospital Board

At a recent Board of Management meeting, the Mansfield District Hospital Board Chair, Robert Beekman, announced the new board appointments for 2011.

Mr Beekman welcomed three new members, Jane Freemantle, Ann Lahore and Jenny Brown, who were recently appointed by the Governor in Council (under the *Health Services Act 1988*) until 30 June 2014.

“These members bring over 90 years experience and expertise between them to enhance an already skilled Board,” Mr Beekman said.

“The substantial background that our new board members will bring to the Hospital, especially in the areas of clinical governance, law and community welfare place us in an unprecedented position to prepare health care in Mansfield for the challenging years ahead. We are indeed fortunate to have a diversely talented and united board to undertake this important work.”

“Throughout the appointment process, the Board sought to fulfill government policy aims in relation to governance expertise, range of skills and gender balance. Our new board membership more than satisfies government requirements and we are thrilled to have committed and experienced new members with clinical and legal know-how join our Team.”

Professor Jane Freemantle has had an association with the Mansfield District for many years and runs a small holder property with her husband on the outskirts of Mansfield.

Jane is a PhD graduate from the University of Western Australia (2003) and a Master of Public Health graduate from the University of Adelaide (1998). She currently holds the position of Principal Research Fellow at the Melbourne School of Population Health, Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne. Jane is an Australian research Council Fellow and also holds adjunct positions as Associate Professor, School of Population Health, University of Western Australia, Senior Clinical Fellow Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Monash University and is an Honorary Fellow of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Centre for Child Health, University of Western Australia.

“I am delighted and indeed privileged to be joining the Board of Management of the Mansfield District Hospital. I consider the appointment an opportunity to work with the hospital executive, healthcare professionals and the community to ensure the best possible primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities are not only available, but also represent best practice in health care delivery,” Professor Freemantle said.

Ann Lahore is a permanent resident of Goughs Bay after moving from Melbourne a number of years ago.

Ann graduated in law and was a senior lecturer in that field for many years at Monash University. She became the first woman partner of the Melbourne office of Mallesons Stephen Jaques in 1989 and acted for a number of large corporations including Telstra Corporation, BHP Billiton, NAB and Remy Martin. Ann was the first woman to be nominated by the Federal Government as a member of the Professional Standards Board for Patent and Trade Marks Attorneys and she served on that Board for many years. She is a member of the Law Council of Australia Business Group and she

is presently the Convener of the Trade Marks subcommittee of the Intellectual Property subcommittee.

"I know that the hospital is extremely important to Mansfield and I look forward to learning more about the way it operates and how it is funded," Mrs Lahore said.

Well known Merton local, Jenny Brown has been employed by the Shire of Mansfield as the Maternal and Child Health Nurse for nearly 25 years.

A qualified midwife and lactation consultant, Jenny's job also includes initiating new mothers' groups, health education programs, ante natal groups and transition to parenting groups. Jenny has extensive experience serving overseas with Australian Volunteers International. In 2009-2010, Jenny worked in East Timor as a midwife and maternal and child health advisor and, in 2001-2002, her travels took her Mongolia where she worked at the Lotus Children's Centre.

Mrs Brown stated that "I hope to be able to bring some ideas to the board about the community and, particularly, in regards to the holistic health of families with small children. I believe in Mansfield we are extremely lucky to have a Hospital of such high standard and I look forward to working with a group of people whose best interests in the Hospital are at heart."

"Our new members have already completed their induction program which closely involved the chief executive officer, Janene Ridley, and her executive team and we look forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead with a Board whose main focus will be to work towards achieving the organization's strategic directions," Mr Beekman said.

At the meeting, Mr Beekman also paid tribute to Mick Ellis who was appointed as Ministerial Delegate to the Board in February 2010 and whose term of office officially ceased in September.

"Mick has been of significant assistance to the Board in relation to governance issues, financial performance and reporting. We are most grateful to Mick for his invaluable contribution to the Board over the past 18 months."

The Regional Director from the Department of Health, Tony Dunn, was also in attendance at the meeting and thanked Mick and the Board for their achievements.

Mr Dunn said "With Mick's assistance, the board (both past and present) has made substantial progress in regards to the noted governance and finance issues. There have been significant improvements in relationships that should be recognized as well."

Mr Beekman indicated that the community will have a chance to meet the new board members, including the three members appointed back in July, at the hospital's annual general meeting on the 17th November, 2011.

