

Surgery waiting time steady

A NATIONAL health report has shown that Victoria's hospitals are performing well with elective surgery waiting times, with all category one patients reportedly treated within the 30 day benchmark, while non-urgent cases were admitted within 36 days.

Health Minister David Davis said the "Elective surgery waiting times report for 2012-13", released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, showed that Victoria has been able to

maintain the median time to treatment of 36 days across all categories for each of the past three years.

"Our solid performance again in 2012-13 is set against the backdrop of the savage funding cuts by the former Federal Government, which caused a sharp drop in the numbers of elective surgery," Mr Davis said.

"All of Victoria's hospitals had to reduce surgery after the former Federal Government slashed hospital funding by \$107 million from last December," he said.

"This funding was reluctantly restored after intense pressure from State Government and our hospitals, but, by then, thousands of patients had their surgery delayed."

Mr Davis said he was keen to co-operatively re-examine health funding under the National Partnership Agreement with the Abbott Federal Coalition Government to ensure that Victoria received its fair share and there is certainty in funding for our hospitals.

Commitment

"Victoria's commitment to elective surgery showed we were putting in extra funding, in contrast to past Canberra cuts," Mr Davis said.

He said the Victorian Coalition Government had increased funding for additional elective surgery by \$44 million, from \$90 million in 2010-11, to \$134

million in 2012-13.

"At the same time, Canberra dropped its elective surgery funding program under the National Partnership Agreement, which saw a sudden shortfall in funding from \$50.2 million to zero, overnight, at the end of June last year," Mr Davis said.

"The recently released AIHW report 'Health expenditure Australia 2011-12' shows Federal Government's public hospital funding share fell from 42 percent in 2008-09 to 38.2 percent in 2011-12," he said.

Confident
Mr Davis said Victoria

could be confident it would boost elective surgery operations during the next year, with the government's record \$14.3 billion injection into health spending in the 2013-14 State Budget.

"Funding includes \$420.7 million across four years to drive elective surgery activity," he said.

Life member passes

A LONGSTANDING Warracknabeal businessman and extremely active community member over his life, Jack Hill, 86, sadly died on Tuesday.

Affectionately known as "Jack", Mr Hill was a long serving member of the Warracknabeal Lions Club and was also awarded a life membership of the Warrack Eagles Football Club in April this year.

Mr Hill operated the business D. Hill and Sons Wool Buyers and scrap metal dealers, after taking over the business from his father Duncan Hill just after World War 2.

Mr Hill was an avid "outdoorsman" being a keen shooter and was regularly seen quail shooting with favourite dog Patch and if not shooting, playing golf or he would be found fishing at Cape Jaffa with his late wife Vera, who passed away five years ago.

The couple had no children but were well supported by family including nephew Wayne Dovaston (who worked



Warrack Eagles president Bernard Lindsay (left) congratulates Jack Hill on being awarded life membership of the club in April this year.

in the business with Jack) and his family over many years.

Warrack Eagles Football Club presented long time supporter and sponsor Jack with a life membership during the Eagles' home game on April 27.

President Bernard Lindsay said Jack was a huge part of the Warracknabeal Football Club.

"He played a massive role on the WFC social club fundraising committee in the 50s and 60s, and I can't remember him ever missing an Eagles game," Mr Lindsay said.

"A huge supporter and sponsor of the game, Mr Hill was an extremely deserving recipient of the life membership," he said.

Damp show, bright spirits



COOK UP: Yesterday's inclement weather for the annual Warracknabeal Show meant being inside was definitely the place to be. Warracknabeal twins Jonti and Maggie McCoy, 6 certainly enjoyed the Kids Cooking Club brought to the show by "Bubble Muffin" chef, Kevin Starow who has a philosophy of empowering kids to make healthy food choices. He shows the girls how to make Nicoise Salad in the Jack McKenzie Pavilion.

UMBRELLAS and raincoats were the order of the day on Thursday, as drizzle dampened the ground at Warracknabeal's annual show, but did little to deter showgoers' spirits.

While overcast skies looked likely to stop the popular rides from operating earlier in the day, the adventurous were thrilled to be able to still "take a spin" on their favourites.

Of course, the wet day did mean some relocation of activities was required, with the showgirl, show ambassador and official opening of the show moved to the Jack McKenzie pavilion.

And, what show would be complete without a lively tune from Warracknabeal Brass Band members, a tempting showbag, or a tasty dagwood dog, donut, or baked potato, courtesy of the many

vendors present on the day.

New Member for Mallee Andrew Broad officially opened the 127th Warracknabeal Agricultural and Pastoral Show, commenting that it was nice to see some rain.

"As farmers, we don't often see too much rain, so it's nice to see," Mr Broad said.

"I commend the show committee on their efforts this year, and am pleased to be able to represent the rural Mallee communities," he said, before wishing everyone a fantastic day.

Mr Broad, together with Yarriambiack Shire Mayor Kylie Zanker then officially opened the Jack McKenzie pavilion, unveiling a plaque in the late Mr McKenzie's honor.

Mr McKenzie's son Jack responded on

behalf of the family, commenting that they were pleased their father was recognised and honoured in such a meaningful way.

Inside the pavilion was also a sight to behold with Rural Northwest Health encouraging visitors to "eat a rainbow", a meccano museum attracting gasps of wonder, and a range of artwork, photos and craft displayed for all to admire.

The poultry section was also a hit once more, as was the animal nursery which, this year, featured a large selection of pets and animals, from ferrets and piglets, to miniature donkeys and even geese.

And, capping off the successful event was the long standing favourite of many showgoers, the grand parade.

Further details, photos and show results will appear in a future edition.

DISTRICT WEATHER

WIMMERA/MALLEE

A high pressure system will move rapidly eastwards from the head of the Bight early today to cross southern New South Wales later today. The next cold front will reach far southwest Victoria Saturday night then will cross the remainder of the State on Sunday.

	Min	Max	Rain
Tues	5.9	22.4	-
Wed	10.0	32.0	-
Thurs	12.7	18.0	-

Today



Mostly sunny
min: 4° max: 20°

Saturday



Sunny
min: 5° max: 25°

Sunday



Possible shower
min: 7° max: 16°

Monday



Mostly sunny
min: 2° max: 16°



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