

# David Koch

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **Koch calls for new food tender**

David Koch, Member for Western Victoria, has called on Maryborough District Health Service to re-advertise its tender for food and beverage services to the Avoca and Dunolly hospitals.

Earlier this week David Koch met with the Avoca community and business operators to listen to their concerns about the outcomes of the recent tender process and he then raised those concerns in Parliament on Tuesday.

David Koch told Parliament that small business operators in Avoca and Dunolly were overlooked in the bidding process for the supply of food and beverage services to their local hospitals due to what can only be described as deceptive advertising by the Maryborough District Health Service.

He said that while an advertisement appeared in the Maryborough Advertiser on 3 July 2007 for tenders to supply meat, frozen food, bread, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables, fruit juice and bakery goods for the Maryborough District Health Service, the advertisement failed to mention it was for the supply of food and beverages for the total service including Avoca and Dunolly hospitals also.

“Avoca traders are appalled at the process that saw tenders awarded to outside regional and metropolitan companies. While not opposed to the competitive tendering process, these traders were given no warning that they had to submit a tender and were only told last week that their services were no longer required.

“At the very least as a courtesy, Maryborough District Health Service should have notified its long term suppliers that a tendering process was underway for new contracts, but what really disappoints them is that no effort was made by the health services’ board to support existing long-term business suppliers.

“This treatment is in stark contrast to locals and volunteers who have supported the Avoca Hospital Opportunity Shop to the tune of \$100,000 over the past 15 years.

“Maryborough District Health Service claims it has adopted a competitive process according to guidelines. But the manner in which it was initiated demonstrated negligence towards these local communities who have made a considerable contribution to their hospital over the years.

“Maryborough District Health Service, red-faced and with cap in hand, has come back to the local Avoca butcher who had been supplying meat to the Avoca Hospital for 30 years and asked him to continue supplying the hospital as the appointed metropolitan supplier had failed to deliver.

“This bungled tender process has left community members stunned and feeling as if their considerable contribution has been meaningless.

“I have requested the Minister for Health, Daniel Andrews, to ensure Maryborough District Health Service re-advertises its tender for the supply of food and beverage services to Avoca, Dunolly and Maryborough hospitals individually so that local businesses have the opportunity to submit tenders for supplying their hospital over the next contract period”, David Koch said.

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