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MEDIA RELEASE

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MP presents Avoca petition to Parliament

David Koch, Member for Western Victoria, presented a petition to the State Parliament this week signed by nearly 500 Avoca and district residents.

The petition calls on the Government to review the tendering process used by Maryborough District Health Service for the supply of food and beverage services, particularly to Avoca's Health Service and the Dunolly Hospital, and for Maryborough District Health Service to readvertise the tender for these services so that local businesses can compete for the next contract period.

David Koch also raised the issue again in Parliament drawing attention to the oversight of the Maryborough District Health Service in not having invited local small business operators to submit tenders for the supply of food and beverage services to the Avoca campus.

He told Parliament that the detrimental impact this has had on small businesses, especially in Avoca has generated a great deal of concern in the community.

"The tendering process endorsed by the Board failed to recognise the capacity of local business to continue the supply of these services against that of the winning tenderers.

"The quest for efficiencies ignored any loyalty to small businesses that have historically supplied these services for many years and the minuscule difference in the cost and delivery of supplying services from larger and in some cases, distant suppliers. This has meant small businesses in Avoca have been penalised simply because they were not advised to submit a tender.

David Koch said that hundreds of concerned residents have supported local business by adding their names to this petition.

"Local community support should not be ignored where long-time local competitive business houses are available to meet this demand.

"Despite the Board's Chair Jean Anderson's claims to the contrary, the Board and CEO erred on this occasion, neither appreciating how small rural communities work in supporting each other and making sure their small local hospitals remain viable and assisting their economies of these smaller centres", said David Koch.

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