The Multi-Purpose Centres In The Victorian Bush Nursing Association’s Network

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The Victorian Bush Nursing Association was established in 1910. The organisation has always endeavoured to ensure that rural communities have a local health and community service.

Since the Association was established, economics and demographics have changed the face of rural and remote Victoria and also the nature of the health services provided to those areas. The hospitals and health centres in the VBNA’s network have been affected by these changes in their communities. Unbeknown to them, they have created a concept now being implemented throughout Australia.

The VBNA recognised in the mid 70s that a change in service concept was needed and each local hospital and health centre proceeded to adapt to the altered circumstances they faced. However the development of the multi-purpose concept has gone further.

One of the keys to the success of the multi-purpose service concept is the fact that its development is owned by those living in the local community - not by the State or Federal Governments.