



**Heidi Victoria MP**  
**State Member for Bayswater**  
**Parliamentary Secretary to**  
**The Premier**  
**Parliamentary Secretary Assisting**  
**The Premier with The Arts**

**David Hodgett MP**  
**State Member for Kilsyth**  
**Cabinet Secretary**  
**Government Whip**

## **M E D I A R E L E A S E**

15 February 2013

### **More fall out from Federal Government Health Cuts**

Local MPs Heidi Victoria and David Hodgett are outraged that Maroondah Hospital has been forced to close down its Diabetes Education Unit. This is another repercussion of Julia Gillard's decision to cold-heartedly cut millions of dollars which was earmarked for Victorian hospitals.

Patients are being referred to Ringwood, Ferntree Gully and Lilydale, putting additional pressure on resources in these suburbs.

Mrs Victoria said "diabetes is a serious issue in our community and it is outrageous that funding for such a vital facility is being used as a pawn in Julia Gillard's political games".

Julia Gillard plans to cut \$475million in funding to Victorian hospitals over the next four years, much of this has already been budgeted and allocated to provide services such as this one.

Kilsyth MP David Hodgett said that the cuts were building pressure on hospital services and leaving patients out in the cold. "Julia Gillard's ruthless funding cuts have forced Victorian Hospitals into a no win situation. Maroondah Hospital has no choice but to cut back on services due to Labor's funding cuts, and patients at the Diabetes Education Unit have lost out," Mr Hodgett said.