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MEDIA RELEASE

ANNUAL MEETING SUCCESS FOR WIMMERA HEALTH CARE GROUP

Wimmera Health Care Group's Annual General Meeting last week was a huge success.

Board of Management President Mark Williams said that more than 100 people attended the event at the Grains Innovation Park in Horsham. "It was fantastic to see so much interest in the important work we do at Wimmera Health Care Group" he said.

Mr Williams said that the annual meeting gave the Board an opportunity to report on its achievements over the past year, including the construction of a new state-of-the-art \$2.7 million medical clinic, due for completion early next year.

"We are very excited about the opportunities the clinic will bring to our region. It will accommodate approximately 25 clinical personnel and support staff and will help Wimmera Health Care Group to secure a sustainable and stable medical workforce into the future, not only in Horsham but also in the more rural and remote areas of the Wimmera" he said.

Mr Williams said that whilst the year had been very positive, the organisation had also faced significant financial challenges.

At the meeting, Life Governorship was awarded to Mr Ken Lehmann of Dimboola. "Ken has been a member of the Dimboola Campus Appeals Auxiliary for the past 28 years. During that time he has been very actively involved in all activities of the auxiliary including the Wimmera German Fest, the 3WM hospital appeal, the local phonathon, selling raffle tickets and organising the annual bus trip. He is a very worthy recipient of this prestigious award" Mr Williams said.

The organisation also acknowledged the significant contribution of Shirley Barr, Margaret Clancy and Florris Mewett for their services to the Wimmera Hospice Care Auxiliary over the past nine years. "The auxiliary has a strong tradition of professionalism and commitment to the community and it is clear that they hold Shirley, Margaret and Florris in very high esteem" he said.

Chief Executive Officer of the Royal College of Nursing, Australia, Debra Cerasa was guest speaker. Debra delivered a vibrant presentation on change management, strategic planning and growth within the Royal College of Nursing, which is based in Canberra.

On behalf of the Board, Mr Williams praised the enormous contribution of Wimmera Health Care Group the staff. He also expressed the Board's appreciation for the significant level of community support the organisation had received from volunteers, donors, community groups, business and Government during the past year. "Without the enormous support we receive from our fabulous staff and community, we wouldn't be the vibrant, progressive regional health service that we are today" he said.

Wimmera Health Care Group employs more than 800 staff. In 2009/10, the organisation treated 11,830 acute inpatients, 15,543 emergency presentations and more than 50,000 outpatients.



Chris Scott, Chief Executive, with award recipients Shirley Barr, Ken Lehmann and Florris Mewitt, and Mark Williams, President, at the Wimmera Health Care Group Annual General Meeting on Monday night. Absent – Margaret Clancy

MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Scott
Chief Executive
Ph. 5381 9200