

8 April 2011



MEDIA RELEASE

PARKING AT WIMMERA HEALTH CARE GROUP

Wimmera Health Care Group has allocated three parking spaces especially for clients attending community rehabilitation and allied health appointments in the Arapiles building. The car parks are located in the Arapiles car park adjacent to the Arapiles building in Baillie Street.

Chief executive Chris Scott said that car parking is becoming an increasing problem for the hospital. "The dedicated car parks will provide a closer option for eligible clients who are accessing services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, speech pathology, dietetics, social work and groups such as gait and balance, cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation and chronic heart failure group" he said.

Mr Scott said that eligible clients may have difficulty walking long distances due to mobility issues or they may be a parent bringing multiple children to one of their child's therapy sessions, and will generally not have a disabled permit.

"Eligible clients will be identified by their treating clinician and a permit will be issued to them for a certain period of time. This permit must then be displayed on the car's dashboard when they are parked in the designated car park" he said.

Mr Scott said that cars parked in these spaces without a permit would be issued with a parking infringement notice. "This notice is not a fine, but to inform the driver that it is a permit area only."

"We are well aware of the parking difficulties around the hospital and are doing our best to address this issue for our clients who have mobility issues. The construction of the new Wimmera Medical Centre has placed pressure on parking and the hospital has responded by creating an additional 30 off street parking spaces for staff. We are also pleased that the Wimmera Medical Centre will have a further 53 car parking spaces also. I am very confident that the new parking spaces at the Medical Centre will relieve some of the parking issues around the hospital" he said.

People who believe they are eligible for a parking permit in the Arapiles car park should speak with their treating clinician or contact Allied Health reception on 53819333.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Chris Scott
Chief Executive
Ph. 5381 9200

Anne Richards
Manager – Community Rehabilitation Centre
Ph. 0403 372 775