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MEDIA RELEASE

WIMMERA HEALTH CARE GROUP WELCOMES CANCER TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A new pilot program will provide assistance with travel costs for cancer patients living in the Wimmera.

Wimmera Health Care Group's chief executive Chris Scott said that this exciting new initiative is a joint venture between Grampians Integrated Cancer Services, Wimmera Volunteers and the health service. "Under existing schemes, some cancer patients in the Wimmera are not eligible for assistance with travel costs. This program will assist with those costs and will also provide a means for gathering information on whether these costs are affecting treatment decisions" he said.

The program will run until 30th January 2009. It will assist chemotherapy patients who live in the Wimmera and travel between 20 and 100 kilometres one way to access their treatment appointments at Wimmera Health Care Group.

"It will also highlight gaps in current transport assistance programs and document the level of need for ongoing travel assistance. Whilst funding is only available until 30th January 2009, we are confident that we can demonstrate that there is a need for ongoing support for local cancer patients" he said.

Mr Scott said that the process for claiming funds was simple. "Claim forms should be completed in conjunction with your treatment provider at Wimmera Health Care Group and then submitted to Wimmera Volunteers as soon as possible after the appointment. Wimmera Volunteers will then forward a reimbursement cheque in the mail" he said.

Mr Scott urged anyone interested in finding out more about the Wimmera Cancer Transport Pilot Project to contact Kylie Dare at Wimmera Volunteers on ph. 5382 5607 or Wimmera Health Care Group.



Kylie Dare from Wimmera Volunteers is pictured with members of the Wimmera Breast Cancer Support Network who are very supportive of the new Wimmera cancer transport pilot project

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