



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hastings Co-op launches Palliative Care fundraiser

As long-time supporters of Wauchope District Memorial Hospital, Hastings Co-op has launched a community fundraiser on behalf of palliative care patients.

A community raffle offering more than \$1000 in prizes donated by local businesses has been organised in a bid to fund two recliner chairs for palliative care patients or visiting family members.

The raffle is being supported by the hardworking Wauchope Hospital Volunteers, who will sell tickets at the Wauchope IGA carpark on 21, 27 and 28 February. The volunteers will also man a barbecue stall on the three days in a bid to further boost the fundraising effort.

The recliner chairs are fully electric and will be purpose-bought for patients who have difficulty sleeping in a bed or for family members who do not want to leave their loved one's side.

Hastings Co-op's chief executive officer Allan Gordon said the co-operative had a long history of supporting worthy local causes, and Wauchope's hospital was deservedly one of them.

"The hospital is an integral part of our community and so it is always a pleasure to be able to give back to the service as a way of saying 'thank you'," Mr Gordon said.

"On this occasion, we became aware that the Palliative Care Unit needed comfortable recliners for it seriously ill patients, and for visiting family members who spend many hours at the bedside of a loved one.

"Harvey Norman, Rydges, Cassegrain Wines and the Settlers Inn have joined forces with Hastings Co-op and the Hospital Volunteers to make this wish list item a reality.

"With the help of the community, we can hopefully raise enough to purchase two quality recliners...maybe three, which have been heavily discounted by Harvey Norman's Furniture Franchise proprietor Kerry Winn."

Palliative Care nurse unit manager Mary Trotter said she was grateful to Hastings Co-op for taking the initiative to address such an important patient-comfort need.

"We really are so very thankful for the support our patients receive from the community," Ms Trotter said. "Our team is dedicated to caring for our patients, and we are humbled by the community's generosity in helping us to make our patients' stay in hospital as comfortable as possible."

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Caption: The Palliative Care Unit's Clinical Nurse Educator Susanne Pritchard (seated) and Nursing Unit Manager Mary Trotter with Hospital Volunteers President Win Secombe and Hastings Co-op's Community Engagement and Events Manager Tim Walker. The Co-op is organising a fundraiser to replace the Palliative Care Unit's two ageing recliners with new, more comfortable recliners for patients and their visitors.