



MEDIA RELEASE

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Team effort delivers three recliner chairs to Palliative Care Unit

Hastings Co-op and the Wauchope Hospital Volunteers set out a month ago to raise enough funds to donate two fully adjustable recliner chairs to Wauchope District Memorial Hospital's Palliative Care Unit. Today, the goal was realised - plus one.

Hastings Co-op's Chief Executive Officer Allan Gordon thanked the community for getting behind the ambitious project – to replace the Palliative Care Unit's ageing recliners with new, comfortable, ergonomic recliners. The new chairs will be used by patients who cannot lie down to sleep, or by worried family members wanting to spend as much time as possible with their loved one.

"Hastings Co-op launched the community raffle in the hope it would gather widespread support for a very worthy cause," Mr Gordon said.

"I'm delighted we were able to reach our goal of two chairs, and over the moon that one of the raffle's major supporters, Harvey Norman Furniture, which is providing the chairs, donated a third recliner valued at \$1000.

"We couldn't have achieved this fantastic result without their support, or that of the Wauchope Hospital Volunteers who sold the raffle tickets and manned the community barbecues.

"We also thank the local businesses who donated more than \$1000 in raffle prizes and last but not least the wonderful people of Wauchope who purchased tickets.

"Team work has once again resulted in a fantastic community effort that will make life a little more comfortable for seriously ill palliative care patients and their families," Mr Gordon said.

Wauchope Hospital Volunteers President Win Secombe also thanked the community for getting behind the fundraiser.

"To everyone who purchased tickets, thank you. People are so generous and caring in this community. They really do dig deep to help others," Mrs Secombe said.

"While we were selling the tickets, we even had a lady donate \$1000 to the UHA to help us purchase medical equipment for the hospital. It's a privilege to live in such a wonderful town."

Palliative Care Nursing Unit Manager Mary Trotter said she was overwhelmed by the community's generosity and thanked everyone involved in the project.

“We were hoping to be able to place two recliners in the unit to offer relief to those patients who find it difficult to lie in a bed, or to give their visitors somewhere to sleep if they choose to stay with their loved one,” Ms Trotter said.

“We can’t believe we now have three recliners. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen – Hastings Co-op for launching the fundraiser, Harvey Norman Furniture for their significant donation, the business houses that provided the prizes, our very own and very special hospital volunteers who spent many hours in the heat manning barbecues and selling raffle tickets and to everyone who bought tickets.

“Such generosity never fails to amaze our palliative care team, and we are certainly very grateful for the support.”

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