

Wednesday 14 October 2009



MEDIA RELEASE

CASE MANAGEMENT AND RESPITE FOR CARERS AVAILABLE AT WIMMERA COMMUNITY OPTIONS

This week (18 to 23 October) is Carer's Week and Wimmera Community Options wants people to know about the support they can offer carers in the Wimmera.

Manager, Tony Tuohey said that carers are an integral part of our health system and sometimes need some additional support. "A carer can be a family member or close friend or neighbour who is looking after a frail elderly person, or a person of any age that has a disability and needs assistance with their daily living. Carer's Week provides us with an opportunity to recognise the valuable role that all carers play in our community and highlight the services we can offer to them."

"Wimmera Community Options provides respite and case management services, to help people to continue living in their own home and the community" he said.

Fiona Welsh from the Carer Respite Centre said that the service provides important information about respite options and the resources available to carers to support them in their role.

"At times, being a carer is challenging, demanding and stressful. Through Carer Support Workers, funds can be accessed to provide short-term, occasional and emergency respite for carers. Our respite program gives carers time out from their caring role. It is very positive and provides carers with the additional support they sometimes need" she said.

Ms Welsh said that the Carer Respite Centre runs a range of programs and services including a "men as carers" program, an ARTrageous program for children with a disability, the Barkuma holiday house and group activities and outings.

Jenny McInerney, Team Leader of the Case Management Service said that this service was also an important program available at Wimmera Community Options. "This service provides consumers with a central Case Manager that will maintain regular contact to arrange and co-ordinate services for them.

Our Case Management program ensures that every consumer gets the services they need in a supportive, effective and efficient manner” she said.

“The Case Management service can be accessed by frail older people, people with a disability and their carers. To receive assistance, a person needs to want to continue to live at home, but require further or different services than the usual services available” she said.

Anyone interested in finding out more about these and other programs provided by Wimmera Community Options should contact the intake worker on ph. 5381 9336.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Fiona Welsh
Team Leader - Carer Respite Centre
Ph. 5381 9317

Jenny McInerney
Team Leader – Case Management Service
Ph. 5381 9121