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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MOTORCYCLING FRIENDS SUPPORT CHEMO UNIT**

A group of Wimmera/Mallee motorcycle enthusiasts have donated a vital signs monitor to Wimmera Health Care Group's chemotherapy unit.

Spokesperson, Jenni Papst said "One of our motorcycling friends, Andrew Gawith, lost a long battle with cancer in 1997. Along with Andrew's family and friends, we wanted to do something to help others in his memory so over the past 10 years our group has worked hard to raise funds for cancer support."

"Wimmera Health Care Group provides an important chemotherapy service for our region and we are pleased to support this worthy cause. When Andrew was sick, he had to travel to Ballarat for treatment" she said.

Mrs Papst said that the group incorporated a tour of the chemotherapy unit as part of a ride to Jeparit where Mr Gawith was a local. At the Jeparit hospital they presented a cheque to purchase a syringe driver.

Janette McCabe from Wimmera Health Care Group said that the vital signs monitor would be of great benefit to the chemotherapy unit. "We previously had one monitor but now that treatments are becoming more complex patients need closer monitoring. This donation for an additional monitor is very welcome" she said.

Mrs McCabe said that Friends All Riding Together were long term supporters of the chemotherapy unit at Wimmera Health Care Group. "Our equipment is expensive, the service is expanding and we are very grateful for their ongoing support" she said.

During the last financial year, Wimmera Health Care Group's chemotherapy unit provided approximately 1,400 treatment sessions to more than 200 patients.

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