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MEDIA RELEASE

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS FOR HARP

Participants in Wimmera Health Care Group's Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) have celebrated Christmas with a special luncheon at the Horsham Sports and Community Club.

More than 40 people attended the celebration.

This important program began at Wimmera Health Care Group two and a half years ago. It focuses on improving the quality of life for people with chronic disease.

Manager, Anne Richards said that the HARP (program) is available to people with chronic illness such as asthma, lung or heart disease, diabetes, multiple health issues or psychological issues. "Our staff visit people in their home to monitor their health status and educate them about managing their chronic disease" she said.

Mrs Richards said that the program aims to ensure that better services and information are available to consumers and their families. "It focuses on ensuring that clients are quickly treated at the earliest sign of change in their condition and ensuring that ongoing support and monitoring between hospital admissions is provided. The program also aims to improve access to treatment options and communication between the client, hospital, general practitioner and community agencies" she said.

Mrs Richards said that people with chronic illness at risk of hospitalisation may access HARP. The HARP team can be contacted on ph. 5381 9022 or alternatively people can call into the office at 11 Arnott Street in Horsham between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on week days.

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