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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **EVERYDAY PEOPLE – EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTION AT WIMMERA HEALTH CARE GROUP**

Wimmera Health Care Group recognises the important role that volunteers play in the organisation.

President of the Board of Management, Bonnie Thompson said that their volunteer base included many individuals and groups who bring a range of professional and personal skills to Wimmera Health Care Group.

“Our volunteers do all sorts of things to enhance the services we provide.”

“We have volunteers who visit the ill and those who provide entertainment and companionship to the frail and elderly. We also have volunteers who drive people to appointments and activities” she said.

Mrs Thompson said that volunteers help out in the opportunity shop which is managed by the Ladies Auxiliary. “Our volunteer groups also run fashion parades, festivals, fetes, luncheons, balls, raffles and other events.”

“There is a group of volunteers who run the Lochiel Wayside stop, providing refreshments to weary travellers. We even have volunteers who sit on a bicycle seat to ride hundreds of kilometres in the Murray to Moyne Cycle relay every year” she said.

“All their hard work is directed at raising funds that enable us to purchase vital life saving equipment that we would otherwise not be able to afford”.

Mrs Thompson said that Wimmera Health Care Group also has volunteers who give up their time to participate on committees such as the Community Advisory Committee, who provide valuable feedback to the organisation. “Even our Board members and Foundation Trustees are volunteers” she said.

“The national volunteers week theme – *Everyday People, Extraordinary Contribution* sums up each and every one of our special volunteers and the important role they play. We are extremely grateful for their commitment and dedication to Wimmera Health Care Group” she said.

Mrs Thompson urged anyone interested in taking on a volunteering role at Wimmera Health Care Group to contact Anne Richards, Volunteer Coordinator on ph. 5381 9130 or Sue Frankham, Community and Private patient Liaison Officer on ph. 5381 9309.

National Volunteers week runs from 11 to 17 May 2009.

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