Media Release:



Disability and Wellbeing in Gannawarra Invitation to a community forum

Northern District Community Health, Cohuna District Hospital and Gannawarra Shire Council provide services to people with disabilities and their carers. The three agencies are now forming a community reference group for people living with a disability, their carers and people working in the field, to gain information on the lived experience and feedback on planning and service provision.

Three community forums will be held across June in Cohuna and Kerang to meet with local community members to work out the best way forward in creating the reference group. NDCH CEO Mandy Hutchinson said, "The community reference group will help us identify ideas or needs in the community that we haven't yet thought of. It will also give feedback on our Disability Action Plans."

The reference group will help the Services tap into community networks that have not yet been heard from but whose voices are extremely important across the broader health service area. But it will also establish a way for community members and local services to regularly communicate and share information that impacts on the wellbeing of people with disabilities and their carers.

The community forums will take place:

COHUNA

NDCH Activity Room 33 King Edward Street, Cohuna Wednesday 5th June – 10.30am – 12.30pm

KERANG

NDCH Activity Room 1 24 Fitzroy Street, Kerang Wednesday 5th June in Kerang – 6.30pm – 8.30pm Thursday 6th June in Kerang – 12.00pm – 2.00pm

Anybody who would like to attend or would like to be included for future communications, can call NDCH on 5451 0200, or can register at <u>www.ndch.org.au</u> by Friday 31st May. Or you can just drop in to one of our offices and register your interest. Please let us know if you have any support needs to attend the meetings and dietary requirements as a light meal will be provided.

People who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impediment, can contact us through the National Relay Service.

TTY Users: phone 133 677 then ask for 03 5451 0200 (Kerang)

Speak & Listen (Speech to Speech) Users: phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 5451 0200 (Kerang)

Internet Relay Users: connect NRS at <u>www.iprelay.com.au</u>, then enter 03 5451 0200 (Kerang)

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