

11 October 2023

## SUMMARY

- A group of community leaders are fundraising to ensure much-needed equipment is available locally.
- Exmouth Freemasons donate \$20K to purchase palliative care equipment for community members in need.

## COMMUNITY LEADERS UNITE TO TRANSFORM END-OF-LIFE SUPPORT IN EXMOUTH – EXMOUTH FREEMASONS DONATE \$20K TO THE CAUSE

It is no surprise that people who live in rural and remote areas have additional issues to consider when managing life-limiting illnesses.

As reports highlight an inconsistent provision of palliative and end-of-life care across Australia, particularly in regional, rural and remote areas, it is long recommended that systematic solutions be developed to address the identified gaps and improve access to and quality of care and support for patients, their families and carers.

In Exmouth, palliative care has become increasingly important in recent years.

In response to this need, a group of community leaders came together to find timely solutions to do better in the future on a local level. The group consists of health professionals, dedicated volunteers and Shire of Exmouth employees.

Recognising the importance of collaboration and collective efforts, the group sought to expand their reach by connecting with the local Exmouth Freemasons. The Exmouth Freemasons are part of an international movement, boasting a membership of over six million individuals worldwide. But despite their global reach, the Exmouth Freemasons strongly focus on their local community, working tirelessly to make a positive impact.

Joining forces with the Exmouth Freemasons has proved to be a catalyst for change. Their commitment to philanthropy and community development resulted in the donation of \$20,519.06 to the cause by the Freemasons and enabled the group, under the guidance of the Shire of Exmouth staff, to purchase a full set of much-needed palliative care equipment that will be available if and when it is needed at the Exmouth Health Service.

## COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SHIRE – SHIRE PRESIDENT DARLENE ALLSTON

“By focusing on improving access, enhancing quality, and providing comprehensive support, the Exmouth community is dedicated to ensuring that individuals with life-limiting illnesses receive the care and support they deserve, regardless of their location.”

“Council is proud to support community-driven initiatives and notes that the impact of the collective efforts of those community members, staff and community groups extends beyond the tangible outcomes. The collaboration between the Exmouth Freemasons and the local community leaders has fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose. Together, they worked towards creating a

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network of compassion and support, providing solace and comfort to individuals facing difficult times.

#### COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE EXMOUTH FREEMASONS – DESMOND EATON

“Freemasonry is one of the world’s oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations. Through our ongoing efforts, we hope to set an example for other communities facing similar challenges, and we are proud to support local causes right here in Exmouth with our group.”

#### COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE EXMOUTH HEALTH SERVICE – KUMAR DEEP (WACHS OPERATIONS MANAGER – GASCOYNE)

“We appreciate the generous contribution – we know the provision of excellent palliative care is close to the hearts of the people of Exmouth, and we appreciate the opportunity to work with community groups to support the delivery of these services for patients and families living with life-limiting illness.

#### COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE EXMOUTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP – KEITH STARK

The Exmouth Community Support Group is extremely pleased to be part of this incredibly successful effort.

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