



Riverine Grazier (Hay)

Wednesday 26/05/2021

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Cancer patients benefit from partnership between Can Assist and greenslips.com.au

Cancer patients across Hay who rely on their cars to travel to and from treatment are benefiting from crucial new funding received by Can Assist Hay from greenslips.com.au.

The partnership between greenslips.com.au and Can Assist was forged in 2019, with funding provided to help pay for cancer patients' green slip insurance. To date, greenslips.com.au has supported 26 Can Assist branches across NSW and is committed to supporting more.

Can Assist Hay provides practical and financial support confidentially to cancer patients to cover travel expenses, fuel, accommodation, medical expenses such as PET scans, radiotherapy out-of-pockets and pharmaceuticals. Each year they support around 45 cancer patients.

"Having the funds from greenslips.com.au to pay for CTP green slips is wonderful," says Marg Booth, Can Assist Hay President/Treasurer.

"I've had some people say to me, 'It's fantastic we don't have to think about it'.

"It's peace of mind. A lot of them are struggling and it means they don't have to go and find that \$500 or the out-of-pocket costs.

"Having a car in Hay is crucial.

"People have to travel to treatment, everything has to be done out of town – and that could mean travelling 160km to Griffith for chemo, or 270km to Wagga for radiotherapy.

"Some even have treatment in Albury, which is around 300km away.

"It's a long way. In addition, independence is more profound when you're going through a health crisis.

"When you lose independence, it doesn't help your mental health. We need to keep them mobile or they become too isolated."

Can Assist Hay covers the entire Hay Shire, encompassing Hay township, Maude, Oxley and Booligal. Can Assist has reached out to people in Ivanhoe, 300km away, and Gunbar, both of which are outside the shire but whose residents provide donations.

The charity is funded entirely by local donations, local fundraising events, and corporate support such as greenslips.com.au.

All money raised locally stays local to help local cancer patients across the district.

However, because of the pandemic, fundraising in the shire has taken a hit.

One of the main fundraisers for Can Assist had been catering at wakes, funerals usually 12 to 15 per year, and events – but since March last year, there had only been two funerals needing catering.

In addition to more donations, Can Assist Hay also needs more volunteers.

"We need to encourage some younger people to come on board," Marg said.

"Just put your hand up! You might only be called upon once a year, but the support is still much needed and appreciated."

For information about donating to or volunteering with Can Assist Hay, contact 0487 795 330. For further information about how to support Can Assist, visit www.canassist.org.au.



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Can Assist volunteers are known for their superb catering skills. Pictured preparing for a recent function are Denise McKeon, Veronica Crowley and Joy Rosewarne.