

**Date** Wednesday 19 January 2011

**Subject** nib foundation grant to provide free health services to disadvantaged Kwinana community

A range of holistic health services will soon be available at no charge for residents living in the disadvantaged community of Kwinana, Western Australia thanks to a \$100,000 grant from nib foundation.

The funding will enable St Patrick's Community Support Centre to deliver its *Hands on Health* service two days a week in the town, which has been ranked as one of the most disadvantaged communities in the Perth Metropolitan area, and even Australia.

The service will include a registered nurse, chiropractic, and optometry, allied health and regular visiting services such as hearing checks and dental rescue days.

nib foundation Chairman, Terry Lawler, said the foundation's support of such an important program will help address the increasing needs for health care and holistic treatments in the ailing community.

"Our key focal areas are wellbeing, equity and access, as well as education and training, and we believe this program has the ability to make a real difference in each of the key areas for the people of Kwinana," Mr Lawler said.

While health services are available in larger neighbouring towns, almost 10% of households in Kwinana do not own a car, making access to these services difficult for locals, according St Patrick's Community Support Centre's Michael Piu.

"By basing this program in Kwinana we are making it easier for residents to access health services, which we hope will result in better health outcomes for the community," Mr Piu said.

"These free health services will promote physical, social and mental wellbeing, with the aim of improving health education, chronic disease management and disease prevention," he said.

The *Hands on Health* program is expected to welcome its first clients next month.

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**About nib foundation**

In 2008, nib health funds established nib foundation – a not-for-profit charitable organisation – to support programs aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

The foundation is funded by a \$25 million donation from nib, which was raised through the issue of new shares at the time of listing nib on the Australian Securities Exchange in November 2007.

**About St Patrick's Community Support Centre**

St Patrick's Community Support Centre was established in 1972 to provide a range of community services to assist low income disadvantaged single persons (including those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless) to achieve the best quality of life. The service caters to clients located within the South West Metropolitan region of Western Australia, and provides access to a range of high quality support services.