

Albury Wodonga Diabetes Peer Support Group nominated for the Victorian Regional Achievement & Community Awards

Thursday 20 June 2019: Many diabetes peer support groups do wonderful work within their wider communities and achieve great successes, assisting and supporting people living with, or affected by, diabetes.

Recently, the Albury Wodonga Diabetes Peer Support Group was nominated for the 2019 Victorian Regional Achievement & Community Awards by Dr Irene Blackberry: John Richards Chair of Rural Ageing & Aged Care Research and Director of the John Richards Centre at La Trobe University.

The Victorian Regional Achievement & Community Awards, acknowledge the valuable contributions that individuals and businesses make throughout regional and rural Victoria, celebrating their successes and achievements.

The Albury Wodonga Diabetes Peer Support Group, convened by Jill Craig, has been running for over 46 years. The group has a successful history, with highlights including:

- distributing their own newsletter: *Diabetes Newslink*, which is sent by email to 500+ people with diabetes, their families, carers & health professionals; by mail to 14 financial members; and hand-delivered to a number of community locations;
- hosting frequent meetings and social events for the wider community, with numerous guest speakers over the years;
- through community fundraising, the group has provided more than \$50,000 worth of diabetes equipment to the local health service through grants; and
- from 1981 to 2007, the group raised funds for & helped run annual camps for young people with diabetes - the first to be held in a country area of Victoria.

“Diabetes is one of the fastest growing health conditions in Australia. It is a complex condition that requires constant management,” says Diabetes Victoria CEO Craig Bennett.

“We need to raise awareness about how serious diabetes is and help Victorians become more knowledgeable about the condition,” says Mr Bennett. “Our Peer Support Groups are vital in supporting people to live well with the condition.”

*We **support, empower and campaign for** all Victorians affected by, or at risk of, diabetes.*

The awards will be presented on Friday 11 October 2019.

We wish them luck with their nomination.

For more information:

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Diabetes Victoria

Since 1953, Diabetes Victoria has been the leading charity and peak consumer body working to reduce the impact of diabetes in the Victorian community.