

Media Release

Thursday November 26, 2009

WHEN: Tuesday December 1, 2.15 pm

WHERE: Atrium, St John of God Hospital Bendigo

More health care choices for Bendigo people

..... is one Bendigo man who knows only too well that more and more people want and need health care services in their own home.

“The increase in the aged population, the growing trend for people to live alone and the desire for people to stay in their homes longer, are all contributing to a real need in the community,” St John of God Hospital CEO Michael Hogan said.

“That’s why we are proud to launch a partnership with another St John of God division – Health Choices – which will work alongside, not replace, existing facilities in the Bendigo region.”

Health Choices means a qualified nurse will visit and treat patients in their own homes or another non-hospital setting. The nurse is able to provide services such as:

- Nursing services in the home
- Assessments
- Personal care and hygiene
- Medications
- Changing wound dressings
- Post surgery checks
- Co-ordinating other support services
- Health education to both patient and carers

For veterans, those with private health cover and other eligible people, there is no cost for the service.

“Just as many people prefer treatment in a familiar setting, health funds and Governments are now keen to support people in need of care within their homes as much as possible,” Mr Hogan said.

“We will work alongside local hospitals, community hospices, pathology services and wide range of social outreach programs.

“We are continuing the legacy of the Sisters of St John of God, who also ministered to patients in their homes or miners in their tents on the WA goldfields during a typhoid outbreak in the 1890s, and further building upon our holistic approach to health care by increasing our reach and capacity to enhance people’s lives across physical, mental and spiritual dimensions,” Mr Hogan said.

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