

Media Release

Subject: ConnectGroups receives cheque for Community Link Booth

Date: 30 August 2018

On Wednesday 29 August 2018 Health Minister Roger Cook officially presented ConnectGroups with a Lotterywest cheque for \$116,580 that will fund a Community Link Booth set to launch at Fiona Stanley Hospital in October.

The volunteer-run Community Link Booth will connect patients at the discharge point to community support services that will enable them to manage their conditions and avoid re-hospitalisation.

Patients and those who support them will be able to visit the booth to access information and resources about their condition, and locate local Support Groups and services aligned with their health and mental health needs.

The booth is a collaborative initiative by ConnectGroups and the Health Consumers' Council of WA, and a result of an identified need to reduce the high rate of preventable hospitalisations in Western Australia.

Mr Cook recognised the importance of the booth in helping those who have been newly diagnosed to be connected with community services that can help them to self-manage their condition.

He also acknowledged the financial cost savings to the healthcare system.

"Re-admissions and ongoing healthcare are obviously a huge cost element for us in the healthcare system," he said.

"One of the ways we make our system more sustainable is to have people helping themselves and others."

"That takes a huge burden off us in the healthcare system and that's why this money is well spent."

The Community Link Booth will be positioned at the entrance of Fiona Stanley Hospital and is due to launch at the end of October.

If you would like to volunteer at the Community Link Booth and help connect patients to support services, please contact ConnectGroups on (08) 9364 6909 or email info@connectgroups.org.au