

MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

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Community Supporting Community

The Shire of Esperance has partnered with local charity Esperance Care Services (ECS) to offer a service to vulnerable people in the community who do not have strong family or social networks to help them through the COVID-19 pandemic period.

The "Community Supporting Community Programme" is aimed at helping individuals 70 and over, people 65 and over with health conditions, and Indigenous community members over 50 with underlying health conditions, as well as those that live independently.

People accessing the service will be able to receive a regular phone call with a volunteer, so they have someone to have a chat to.

They can also get their medical prescriptions and food and other supplies delivered.

If they'd like to request a book, magazine, DVD or puzzle, that can be arranged through the Esperance Public Library and a program volunteer.

For the safety of both the volunteers and the programme recipients, the service will be contactless, goods will simply be placed on the doorstep.

Shire of Esperance CEO Matthew Scott said partnering with ECS for the Community Supporting Community Programme was the right move given the current circumstances.

"With many of our older residents being asked to self-isolate, it is important to offer a co-ordinated, safe way to assist," he said.

"Partnering with ECS means services will be available to those, that for some reason or other, may not qualify for current Homecare Services and it also allows for ECS to expand their reach to a wider section of the community."

A number of volunteers have already registered their interest to help programme participants.

If you would like to put your hand up to volunteer your time to help others, please contact the Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre by calling 9072 0346.

If you would like to register to become a programme recipient please call 0499 385 981.

Ends

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