



Australian Registered non-for-profit Charity ABN 31585742209

MRN Press Release

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MRN Media Story - Vital Signs Outback AU - Project

Recycling supports Outback Hospitals

A couple of months ago, Wayne Leathem was down in the 'dungeons' underneath the Nepean Hospital, where old furniture goes to deteriorate and die. He'd spoken to his bio-med engineering contact, Paul who had lined up twenty-something Vital Signs patient monitors on stands and Wayne was delighted. He sent a photo to Jeff at Katherine District Hospital a photo of one of the monitors via mobile "Interested?" and the reply came back, "We'll take a dozen".

Wayne smiled. He loved it when a plan came together. These Welch Allyn Spot Vital Sign monitors keep track of blood pressure, oxygen levels in the blood and Temperature. And they were in good working order.

As a retired scrub-scout nurse, Wayne had seen a lot of good equipment thrown out of hospitals when upgrading or changing providers. For the last ten years, Wayne's charity, Medical Repurposing Network (MRN) had been 'joining the dots' to find hospitals that were turning over good quality equipment and then giving it away to those that needed it.

"MRN is fulfilling two needs: providing better medical diagnostic and monitoring support to doctors and nurses in remote hospitals (which are generally disadvantaged due to their size and location); and it's preventing good equipment going to landfill".

The Network is a key to the success of MRN, ensuring it continues to operate 'on the smell of an oily rag'. Equipment is gladly donated free of charge; transport is provided at a discount by a number of companies that have space in their vehicles or containers; and Kennards provides a free warehousing facility for Sydney-based operations. A close connection with Rotary Australia has given MRN financial support as well as many helping hands when there's a need for packaging up the equipment.

"Everyone contributes something when they can. It's wonderful. Even the packing boxes are recycled - courtesy of the Mater Hospital CSSD," said Wayne. The Welch Allyn Spot Monitors are travelling to Alice Springs (Purple House Dialysis unit), Tennant Creek and Katherine hospitals at a reduced 'goodwill' rate for the journey.

Thanks go out to Wayne and Wendy who have organised the ABS Transport truck (from Sydney to Adelaide); and Lisa from ABC Transport who will send the monitors on the second leg of their journey (Adelaide to Katherine).

Visit www.mrnetwork.com.au to support or join the network.

Tel: +61 404179169

Fax:

Email: wayneleathem38@gmail.com

Web: www.mrnetwork.com.au

Contributors

Nepean Hospital, Mater Hospital CSSD, Kennards, Rotary Club of Sydney Cove, Hill Rom, ABS Transport and ABC Transport.

Recipients

Purple House, Tennant Creek and Katherine Hospitals, NT.

This media story is available to be shared across all media with the consent of the above (consent maybe required).

Wayne Leathem
Medical Repurposing Network

Outback Vital Signs



Tel: +61 404179169

Fax:

Email: wayneleathem38@gmail.com

Web: www.mrnetwork.com.au