



WILLIAM BUCK TAKES CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Thanks to William Buck Queensland, Cunnamulla Health Centre will have its first ever retinal camera.

The provision of high quality eye services is a fundamental part of improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Sadly, Indigenous adults report six times more blindness than the non-Indigenous population. 94 per cent of vision loss is unnecessary and is preventable or treatable. Diabetes retinopathy is one of the leading causes of blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Yet simple screening for diabetes retinopathy prevents blindness.

Cunnamulla is a small town that lies on the Warrego River in South West Queensland, 206 kilometres south of Charleville.

With the help of this new camera, each patient will have a retinal photo taken. Each image, via tele health, will help identify those with diabetes retinopathy. The next stage, simply involves the visiting ophthalmologist using a laser or injecting the eye to restore sight and this will be done within a few weeks. Prior to Cunnamulla receiving this camera, a patient would have to wait up to many years for treatment. **Q**

CAIRNS HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM TO GET NEW STREET VAN

A huge and very heartfelt thank you from AMA Queensland Foundation and AMA Queensland member, Dr Sharmila Biswas to everyone who generously gave to our recent 2014 Tax Appeal.

Your kind donations totalled an incredible \$57,072, surpassing our target of \$50,000 and ensuring that Rosies will be able to purchase a new street outreach van for their Cairns program.

Without your help this vital service would not have been able to continue, with their current 20 year old van soon to be forced off the road. A new van, being able to carry more volunteers and amenities safely, means the outreach program can grow to cater for the increasing number of Cairns homeless, providing them with much needed food, beverages, emergency clothing, blankets and support.

Local GP and AMA Queensland Far North Area Representative, Sharmila,

has witnessed first-hand the increasing numbers of those who rely on the Cairns outreach van, not only for basic needs such as food and blankets, but also to feel some connection with the community around them. "For a short time they feel welcomed rather than shunned, and are treated with dignity and respect. The street outreach van is quite literally a life saver for these people", says Sharmila.

"I'm so grateful to my fellow AMA Queensland members and professional colleagues for their contributions to this appeal, and for reaching out to those most vulnerable in our community," said Sharmila. "Your generosity will ensure that the disadvantaged and destitute can eat and sleep, and provide support and a listening ear to those who society excludes".

Keep up to date with the Foundation's activities on Facebook (AMA Queensland Foundation) and Twitter (@AMAQ-Foundation). **Q**

