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Media Statement

DIABETES RESEARCH BOARD MEMBER'S MASSIVE CONTRIBUTION

For more than 30 years, Mervyn Rothstein has donated his time to support a cause close to heart – diabetes research.

The retired Perth solicitor, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes as a young father, has just stepped down from the Board of Diabetes Research WA – a charity he's volunteered for since 1988.

Diabetes Research WA executive director Sherl Westlund said the hours Mervyn had donated added up to a contribution worth around \$315,000.

"Every not-for-profit needs trusted and wise counsel and we've been incredibly lucky to have that in Mervyn over such a long period," said Ms Westlund.

"Mervyn ensured we ticked all relevant legal requirements to remain compliant in Western Australia so that we could continue our quest to find solutions for diabetes in all its forms including the causes, complications and ultimate cure for diabetes.

"His skill and dedication are second-to-none and we are indebted to him for his amazing contribution."

Mr Rothstein said his first-hand experience of the power of medical research to change lives is what prompted his volunteering.

"When I was first diagnosed, blood glucose levels still had to be tested through urine and the glass syringes I had to use to inject insulin had to be sterilised in boiling water," he said.

"Advances over the last 45 years of me being a diabetic have resulted in my life as a diabetic becoming longer, healthier and easier to live. Insulin quality has improved, Insulin pens make injections a breeze and the sensor I wear means no more finger pricks and less likelihood of complications."

He went on to say that important diabetes research in Western Australia was ongoing and needed to be supported, which was the reason for his ongoing commitment to the charity over the years.

"There is excellent research being conducted in Western Australia and it is my hope that a cure will be found in my lifetime," he said.

To support Diabetes Research WA and its latest fundraiser, spearheaded by its newest Ambassador, West Coast Eagle Jamie Cripps, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 18, head to chuffed.org/project/help-crippa.

The initiative aims to raise \$60,000 to fund one of the charity's annual diabetes research grants, which are given out on World Diabetes Day – November 14 – each year.

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