



October 15, 2014

Media Statement

WORKERS SWAP STEERING WHEELS FOR CLUBS IN JOONDALUP FUNDRAISER

Dozens of WA transport workers swapped their steering wheels for golf clubs this week, taking to the green at Joondalup Resort golf course to raise money for diabetes research.

Ahead of World Diabetes Day on Friday November 14 and under the blazing sun, 100 members of the Western Australian Road Transport Association (WARTA) held their annual Charity Golf Day, collecting more than \$5000 to fund local medical research projects.

WARTA CEO Ian King said the Association saw the benefits of aligning with Diabetes Research WA to help boost the wellness of its members.

“This is a charitable partnership that is win-win – our fundraising initiatives help Diabetes Research WA back world-leading WA research that has the potential to improve the health of millions of people and, in turn, that research and their understanding of all types of diabetes and the prevention of complications can help our members, many of whom are at increased risk of developing the condition,” he said.

Diabetes Research WA executive director Sherl Westlund said she was thrilled the event, which included a fundraising auction, would help the not-for-profit group support West Australian scientists build on their breakthroughs into type 1 and 2 diabetes.

“Our local researchers have had and are continuing to have a global impact – for example, one team is investigating a protein which appears to work in a compensatory manner to reduce diet-induced obesity and type 2 diabetes and another is leading the search for a test that could indicate a person’s chances of developing type 1 diabetes,” said Ms Westlund.

“Given that diabetes already costs the Australian economy at least \$6 billion a year and the number of Australians living with it is predicted to rise from the current estimated 1.8 million to 3.3 million by 2031, we must make research inroads as fast as we possibly can.”

Diabetes Research WA will be back at Joondalup Resort on World Diabetes Day, having been selected as the charity partner for the Institute of Management Consultants 2014 National Conference focusing on organizational resilience.

Diabetes Research WA, based at Royal Perth Hospital has now raised and distributed more than \$4.6 million dollars..

For information, please visit www.diabetesresearchwa.com.au or call (08) 9224 1006.

-ends-

MEDIA CONTACT: Natalie Caudle natalie@capturemedia.com.au, 0407 984 435