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Media Statement

DIABETES GROUP PAYS TRIBUTE TO LONG-SERVING DAGLISH VOLUNTEER

Ahead of World Diabetes Day 2016, WA's peak diabetes research funding group has paid tribute to a long-serving volunteer, Darglish's Bill Coleman.

A former Chief Commissioner of the WA Industrial Relations Commission, Mr Coleman AM has just retired from the Board of Diabetes Research WA after 30 years.

"After so many years of incredible service, Bill recently attended our 2016 annual general meeting – his last official Diabetes Research WA engagement," said the group's executive director Sherl Westlund.

"Bill has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of our organisation – which he was at one point Vice President of – and has helped us connect with so many incredible WA people and businesses over the past three decades."

Mr Coleman, whose family has been touched by diabetes, was also at one time President of the service-delivering organisation Diabetes WA.

"Bill's motivation to make a difference in the area of diabetes also saw him become an instrumental part of the push to establish WA's dedicated Centre for Diabetes Research, headed up by Professor Grant Morahan who made the move from Melbourne to set up the laboratory," said Ms Westlund.

"That team has been involved in world-leading work including the discovery of more than 50 genes causing the incurable type 1 diabetes, which is on the rise in Australia, and uncovering that lupin-supplemented diets have beneficial effects in protecting against T2D-related traits, so Bill's contribution through this alone has been significant."

Mr Coleman will stay on in an advisory capacity for the Diabetes Research WA fundraising committee.

Diabetes Research WA's annual World Diabetes Day event is taking place in the morning of Friday November 11 in Wembley.

The event will include an update on the closed-loop (artificial pancreas) system by Dr Martin de Bock, a Paediatric Endocrinologist at Princess Margaret Hospital.

For more details, head to www.diabetesresearchwa.com.au

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