



Monday 19 December 2011

SILVER CHAIN NURSE PRACTITIONER ENHANCES ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Silver Chain's Nurse Practitioner, Ms Laura Black, has been appointed to work in the Eastern Wheatbelt region under the State Government's \$565million Southern Inland Health Initiative funded under the State Government's Royalties for Regions program. This appointment is in partnership with WA Country Health Services.

Nurse Practitioners are registered nurses with extensive clinical training and a Masters Degree who work closely and collaboratively with General Practitioners, other healthcare professionals and specialists to help ensure people have access to quality health care.

Ms Carole Bain, Silver Chain General Manager of Country Services, notes that Nurse Practitioners provide quality healthcare services to areas that traditionally have a limited number of doctors and their presence will go a long way in enhancing the health services and care available to people living in rural and remote areas of Western Australia

"Through their training and expertise, they are able to perform advanced physical assessments, order diagnostic tests and interpret test results, initiate referrals to relevant healthcare providers and prescribe appropriate medications and other therapies as needed.

"Ms Black is a Nurse Practitioner with more than 30 years nursing experience who will focus on assisting patients to manage chronic disease. Under the Initiative, she will work to improve access to treatment, provide outreach services in the Eastern Wheatbelt communities and provide mentorship and clinical expertise to other health professionals

"The Southern Inland Health Initiative has six activity streams to significantly boost health services to the region and provide contemporary health care services that will match the needs of the respective communities," concluded Ms Bain.

For more information about Silver Chain services in rural and remote Western Australia, please visit www.silverchain.org.au or contact our customer centre on (08) 9242 0242 or 1300 650 803 for country callers (for the cost of a local call).

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