

30 September 2015

CARE FOR HEDLAND EDIBLE GARDEN PROJECT

Silver Chain clients have been working alongside the Care For Hedland Environmental Association and the Pilbara Regional Youth Justice Services to create an interactive and edible garden at Silver Chain's South Hedland social centre.

The aim of the project was to engage Silver Chain's clients in a productive, sustainable and fun environment that would promote wellness and community involvement.

Silver Chain Pilbara Community Manager, Amy Flaherty, said the extensive project involved the development and installation of a number of raised garden beds, so all of our clients, whatever their abilities, could participate in the project.

"The edible garden project really captured what Silver Chain is all about – enabling clients to improve their health and wellbeing while connecting and collaborating within the community," Ms Flaherty explained.

Care For Hedland Environmental Association Chairperson, Kelly Howlett, and Community Work Officer for the Pilbara Regional Youth Justice Services, Jansen Monteiro, were both instrumental to the project.

"The project was essential to contribute to the rehabilitation of young offenders who are under community work orders through the justice system," Mr Monteiro explained.

"The young offenders from Pilbara Regional Youth Justice who participated in this project had the opportunity to develop essential gardening and life skills while interacting with friendly staff, local renowned elders and people with special needs. It was the perfect environment for them to thrive."

"Once the garden was installed, Care For Hedland ran a number of workshops and information sessions with Silver Chain clients and staff," Ms Howlett said.

"The clients were actively involved in every step from selecting the plants and planting to ongoing care and harvest. They were also given a take home plant, pot and watering can so they could look after their own plants too.

The project has created an increase in connection, activeness and emotional support for clients. They have also enjoyed healthier meals thanks to the range of fresh, organic produce now available at the Social Centre.

The project was made possible thanks Care For Hedland Environmental Association, Pilbara Regional Youth Justice Services, the Pilbara Institute's Horticulture program and Port Hedland Pony Club.

The Social Centre provides social interaction and respite for carers by giving clients an opportunity to interact with others in a comfortable environment while participating in a range of interactive and interesting activities.

For more information about Silver Chain services, contact our Contact Centre, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week on (08) 9242 0242 (or country callers on 1300 650 803).

6 Sundercombe Street, Osborne Park, WA 6017

Tel (08) 9242 0242 | Fax (08) 9242 0268
info@silverchain.org.au | www.silverchain.org.au

Silver Chain Nursing Association (Incorporated) ABN 77 119 417 018

Media Contact

Laura Taylor, Team Leader – Communications, Silver Chain

T (08) 6318 7621 | M 0408 585 853 | E laura.taylor@silverchain.org.au

About Silver Chain Group

In September 2011, Silver Chain in Western Australia and RDNS in South Australia, two like-minded not-for-profit organisations, merged to become one of the largest in-home health and care providers in Australia. With over 2,940 staff, 400 volunteers, the Group assists over 83,000 people to remain living in their homes and community every year.

The Silver Chain Group's purpose is to build community capacity to optimise health and wellbeing. This is the core of which we are as an organisation and will help shape the future of in-home community care across Australia. For more information, please see www.silverchain.org.au.