

Date: 27/4/2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SUBJECT: CCTV INSTALLATION AT URALBA HOSTEL

Security and Peace of Mind

The 19 residents and staff at Uralba Hostel in Gundagai can now rest easy that their security and well-being has been addressed with the installation of nine close circuit television cameras, made possible with an \$8000 grant from the Stronger Communities Fund, which was dispensed by the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council and the NSW State Government.

Uralba Hostel is residential aged care facility and is home to 19 elderly Gundagai residents. The hostel was built in 1989 with money raised by community and is one of the very few not for profit aged care facilities left in the state. Administered and run by volunteer board of directors, Uralba Hostel employs 17 local staff. Uralba Hostel provides residential care to the elderly of the Gundagai district so they can stay in their own town giving them the social benefit of being around family, friends and familiar medical and professional services.

The isolation and recent changes to services around the location of Uralba Hostel, being in close proximity to the Hume highway, located behind the new Gundagai Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) and the private ownership of the old hospital identified a need for closer scrutiny of security.

Uralba Hostel Supervisor Ann Cole said “the installation of these cameras provide a secure environment for our residents and staff, particularly at night. The residents were very excited about the system and have said they feel more secure since the system was installed.” Ms. Cole also added “the cameras are positioned at entrance doors and in common areas, our resident’s privacy has not been compromised’.

Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council’s Administrator Stephen Sykes said the well-being and security of our elderly residents is vital.

“The Stronger Communities Fund grant has helped secure this for the residents and staff of Uralba Hostel,” Stephen said.

Member for Cootamundra, Katrina Hodgkinson MP said the installation of CCTV is important to enhancing safety and security at Uralba Hostel.

“This project is essential to providing staff, residents and their families’ peace of mind when it comes to their personal safety and security,” Katrina said.

“I’m very pleased to support the Uralba Hostel project through the NSW Government’s Stronger Communities program.”

The cameras are now in operation and Ms. Cole said “the installation of the 9 CCTV cameras would not have been possible without the funds granted from the Stronger Communities Fund”.

ENDS – Picture and caption page 2

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Caption:

Pictured left to right: Ulalba Hostel resident Mary Luff, Deputy Supervisor Katie White, Supervisor Ann Cole, Administration officer Elizabeth McGregor and resident Joan Shimpf standing under one of the nine CCTV cameras installed with funds from the Stronger Communities Fund.



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