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Media Statement

FRIENDSHIP PAVES WAY FOR SUPPORTING WA DIABETES RESEARCH

A lifelong friendship and a mutual link to diabetes has blossomed into a partnership supporting WA quests to better treat, prevent and cure the condition.

Beth and Bill Powell were recently acknowledged for their efforts volunteering for Diabetes Research WA.

The Canning Vale couple regularly joins their friends Patsy and Errol Russell-Lane in helping the Perth charity coordinate mailouts.

Patsy's son, Brad, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes as an adult and Bill has lived with type 2 diabetes for 20 years.

"Patsy and I went to high school together and formed a friendship as teenagers and have never lost touch," explained Mrs Powell.

"We still do a lot of social things together and Patsy mentioned one day that she was helping Diabetes Research WA and I suggested that if I could be a help, I would be more than happy to assist.

"Thankfully, Bill's diabetes is very much in control; he manages his diet well and exercises most days but we jumped at the chance to support the effort to fund WA research into diabetes as this work may help not only us but also many others."

Diabetes Research WA executive director Sherl Westlund thanked Beth and Bill for their ongoing support.

"As a small charity, we rely on the generosity of our volunteers who give up their time to ensure we can keep costs down and maintain the focus on funding WA's most promising diabetes research," she said.

Beth, Bill, Patsy and Errol's most recent volunteering efforts are supporting the promotion of Diabetes Research WA's National Diabetes Week lunchtime event on Wednesday July 17.

The lunchtime forum, *Diabetes & The Gut: Closer to a Cure?* is looking at if paying attention to our gut health can help prevent, cure or better manage type 1 & 2 diabetes cases, including those linked to statin medications.

Speakers include Curtin University's Professor Fergal O'Gara, paediatric endocrinologist Professor Liz Davis, and Edith Cowan University's Professor Amanda Devine.

West Coast Eagle Jamie Cripps, who has type 1 diabetes, will also be at the Wembley event signing autographs before it kicks off.

Head to diabetesresearchwa.com.au to find out more details and RSVP.

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