



Dental Centre's (left) Ann Campbell and Corinne Wilkins with Harold Williams Home resident Win Fraser in the medical treatment room.
PICTURE: Gavin Schmidt

Room proves a winner for home's residents

By Emily Roberts

Harold Williams Home has a dental chair, equipment and regular visits by hygienist staff - it has been described as "unusual but tremendous".

The Dental Centre's Greg Cocks said when Harold Williams nursing home was being built, he proposed the development of a multi functional room.

"I spoke to Southern Cross Care BH CEO Allan Carter about the room," Dr Cocks said.

"It could be made into a dental surgery or a doctor's surgery."

Dr Cocks said he was prepared to donate a dental chair that could be used by other practitioners.

"I spoke with the architect

building Harold Williams and asked if it could be incorporated in," he said.

The dental chair and dental equipment were installed.

"It was quite complex," Dr Cocks said.

"But it was an opportunity for my wife and I to give something back to the community."

Dr Cocks said it would be available for people that might not have access to different services.

"Every few months, oral hygiene staff work at Harold Williams Home in a voluntary capacity," he said.

"It is the first time anything like this has been done."

This innovation has made history locally, Dr Cocks said.

"It is a very beneficial collaboration between Southern Cross Care and the Dental Centre," he said.

Mr Carter said the idea was

unusual but it was hugely appreciated.

"If Greg Cocks hadn't been prepared to donate the equipment, we wouldn't have been able to do it," he said.

"It is a great investment - it is tremendous."

Mr Carter said there were lots of difficulties surrounding residents and trips to the dentist.

"We have to consider if it is practical, if they need someone with them and if we can allow staff to go with them," he said.

"With equipment on site it eases a lot of the problems."

He said the dental chair was also used as a podiatrist's chair.

"The whole room has been set up as a treatment room," Mr Carter said.

"It is unusual but we are grateful Greg gave us the opportunity for it to be here."