



Friday 16 July 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

SUPPORT GROUP FOR CARERS EXPANDS TO ORBOST

Over 53 new cases of dementia are being diagnosed each day in Victoria, according to a recent Access Economics and Alzheimer's Australia Vic report.

This is an alarming figure, but what's more shocking is the prediction that this is set to increase to 82 per day by 2020.

Benetas and Alzheimer's Australia Vic have partnered together in an effort to support Gippsland residents living with dementia, and those who care for them.

The Lakes Entrance Dementia Carer Support Group was established in 2009 after significant interest and enquiries to Benetas and Alzheimer's Australia Vic regarding dementia care from residents in the region.

Manager of Benetas Community Care in Gippsland Jacqui Watts says, "We are now excited to announce the commencement of a second support group for the Gippsland Region." Orbost carers are invited to attend the first Orbost Dementia Carer Support Group on 2 September at Orbost Neighbourhood House.

Experts from Benetas and Alzheimer's Australia Vic will hold the monthly meetings for members of the community who care for someone living with dementia. Meetings provide carers with the opportunity to share experiences, information and turn to the host organisations for support.

"Our meetings provide a supportive forum for carers to share their experiences, learn new strategies and enjoy socialising with others who share common problems," explains Diane Scott, Gippsland Counsellor with Alzheimer's Australia Vic.

Meeting details:

Lakes Entrance Dementia Carer Support Group

3rd Tuesday of each month

Next meeting 20 July, 1pm – 3pm

Bakewell Room, Gippsland Lakes Community Health Centre, entrance from Heatherlea Grove

No registration necessary

Orbost Dementia Carer Support Group

1st Thursday of each month

Next meeting 2 September, 1pm – 3pm

Orbost Neighbourhood House, 236 Nicholson Street Orbost

No registration necessary

Enquiries to: 5155 6000

Benetas media contact: Lisa Cowell 0400 224 852

Benetas is a not-for-profit organisation, founded by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in 1948. Benetas provides quality aged care services for more than 2,000 older Victorians within its 12 residential care facilities and through its extensive community care programs that enable older people to stay at home with support. Benetas is also one of the leading providers of dedicated day and overnight respite services in Victoria.