

Rotary Club of Queanbeyan Sponsors MHERV – Men’s Health Education Rural Van

The MHERV project is organized by Rotary and over the past six to seven years it is estimated that over 450 lives have been saved because of these free basic health checks. MHERV sees around 3,500 patients each year and it is no surprise how many males have undetected symptoms. Around 40% require following up with a GP. Ladies are also more than welcome.

“Don’t hesitate to give 10 minutes of your busy day to get free basic health screening undertaken today”, said Bill Power the Registered Nurse who travelled around NSW in 2023. Literally, *“It could save your life”*. Bill is happy to take your blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and blood sugar levels; and have a general quick chat about your health.

Project leader Graeme Hooper said (2023), *“While men are our key target as we don’t want them dropping dead in the paddock, ladies are also welcome.”*

Rotary kindly acknowledges the support of the NSW Department of Health for funding the purchase of the new 9m RV, and Electrodry, in making this free service possible.

On the two days in May 2023 of the MHERV visit to Bunnings Majura Park (Canberra Airport), attendance was low due to the slow traffic through Bunnings. Given the low numbers of people tested on both days, the results were simultaneously gratifying and disturbing, and demonstrated the value of the MHERV service.

There were two ‘patients’ who needed to go straight to the hospital emergency department (extremely high blood pressure). These individuals were young, not yet in their 30’s, so this was very disturbing. There were also 10 ‘patients’ who needed to see their doctor urgently to follow up their disturbing results.

In March 2024, our Club again hosted MHERV, and this year placed the van in the Riverside Plaza North carpark in Queanbeyan, next to Kmart, where the Red Cross Blood Bus usually parks. Over the day and a half of the visit, around 75 people attended the RN Jennifer, with several requiring urgent or immediate medical attention.

Our Club is very grateful that this service has provided such a beneficial outcome for many members of our community, particularly given increasing inflation, and the reduction in the number of doctors who will provide bulk-billing services. Our goal of increasing the visibility of the van, combined with more advertising, attracted more people resulting in a more successful event which we hope to further build upon in 2025.



The new RV came into service in 2024.