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Fiona Stanley Hospital helps fund volunteer wildlife hotline.

On the eve of National Volunteers Week (11-17 May) the Fiona Stanley Hospital project has announced a \$30,000 grant to help train and provide equipment for volunteers who staff the Wildcare Helpline.

The volunteers man the helpline 24-hours a day, seven days a week and provide advice to people located all over the State on how to care for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife including the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. It is run by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Fiona Stanley Hospital Executive Director Brad Sebbes said the Project was committed to assisting in the rehabilitation and protection of Western Australian wildlife.

"The Wildcare Helpline is a practical way that members of our community can get involved in really making a difference and helping to rehabilitate injured, ill or fragile wildlife," Mr Sebbes said.

"The Helpline receives up to 30 calls a day from people concerned about animals and we are pleased to be able to give the volunteers the extra resources that they need.

"The money will be used to provide additional training sessions for helpline operators, basic wildlife rehabilitation courses, information sessions, mobile telephones and volunteer uniforms along with helping to cover telephone expenses.

"This funding is part of the Hospital's wider \$2.3million commitment to environmental rehabilitation and protection programs – most of which are locally focused to support the community and environment near the Hospital site."

Wildcare Helpline Coordinator Marg Buckland said the additional resources provided by the Fiona Stanley Hospital project would make it a lot easier to assist people caring for wildlife.

"Many people ring us because they feel they cannot look after a bird or marsupial that they have found. Our volunteers are able assess the situation and advise the caller on what to do – whether that is to care for the animal in a particular way or to bring it to recognised rehabilitation centre," Ms Buncland said.

"The training provided by our organisation helps volunteers handle situations which are often quite tense or emotional for the carers."

The funding is being provided under a unique partnership between the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Department of Health, and the Department of Treasury and Finance.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Fiona Stanley Hospital will be the major tertiary hospital in the south metropolitan area. Work is under way on the Murdoch site and construction of the main hospital buildings is expected to commence later this year. For more information about the Fiona Stanley Hospital project and its environmental programs, visit www.fionastanley.health.gov.au or call 1800 659 475.

