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Media Release:

Healthy Harold helps children in the community make better choices thanks to funding boost

Local students are being educated about health and safety in an exciting and imaginative way, thanks to a three-year partnership between Central Queensland (CQ) Life Education and Yarrabee Coal mine.

The \$30,000 donation from Yarrabee Coal will enable the iconic Life Education Mobile Learning Centre to continue to deliver and expand the delivery of their early learning and primary school programs to children across all the local CQ schools including Live Better Early Learning Centre, Blackwater State School, Blackwater North State School, Bluff State School, Dingo State School, Woorabinda State School, Baralaba State School and Duaringa State School.

Life Education is also pleased to be able to offer the 'Welcome to Puberty' module from their personal development program 'Talk About It' for the first time to students in years 5 and 6 throughout the region as well.

Yarrabee Coal Operations Manager, Cris Shadbolt was proud to launch this partnership.

"The Healthy Harold team perform a vital service for the children in the Central Highlands region.

"As one of the key employers in the region, we are committed to financially investing and playing an active role in our local community so partnering with Life Education is a perfect fit.

"Many of our people have children and teenagers at the local schools so we are pleased we can have a positive impact on them by funding a visit from Healthy Harold," said Cris.

Established in 1979, Life Education is Australia's largest children's charity and provides health, drug, and alcohol education to empower kids to make safe and healthy choices. They deliver specialised health education programs in a Mobile Learning Centre, using the iconic mascot Healthy Harold the giraffe, connecting with kids aged 3-17 years of age.

Liz Hills, CQ Life Education Educator was thrilled with the funding support.

"As our future leaders, we recognise how critical it is to empower children and teenagers with information about positive health, wellness and how their bodies work so that they can make informed decisions and know how to stay healthy, safe and happy. This is vital for laying the foundations for their future.

"We rely heavily on the support of our volunteers, local business and the support of the community to enable us to continue our important work. Yarrabee Coal coming on as a major sponsor is greatly appreciated.

“We are also excited about the upgrades we have made to Healthy Harold’s mobile classroom. It now features several technological updates such as virtual reality, a large touch screen TV and air-conditioning, which all help engage the students and keep them comfortable,” said Liz.

Lisa Wogand from Blackwater North State School added, “The Life Education Van is a fantastic resource to teach children about ways that they can live healthy lives. I fondly remember my childhood experiences visiting the Life Ed van and hearing Harold’s messages.”

The funding support is part of the Yancoal Yarrabee Community Support Program, which aims to make a difference in the community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas where it operates.

Since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating nine producing mines across the country, employing over 4,300 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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