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# Media Release:

## Heart Hub South West gets technology upgrade

Counsellors and clients at Heart Hub South West Inc. will benefit from greater online access to trauma support, thanks to an \$8,870 donation from Premier Coal to purchase a new video conference meeting solution.

The funding enabled Heart Hub to buy a Yealink 65-inch MeetingBoard Pro that provides the capability to video conference across multiple locations, a touch display for whiteboarding and screen sharing, delivering more interactive and effective support.

Individuals and families affected by road trauma can now experience and access virtual peer support across Western Australia in regional and remote areas, having access to Heart Hub's first online support group.

Members of the Collie community who may not have access to technology, will now have the option to take part in online counselling sessions with their counsellor, in the Heart Hub office.

Tarryn Sanford, President and Founder of Heart Hub South West was pleased with the technology advancement.

"Heart Hub was created from a lived experience with a deep understanding of what's missing in the aftermath of road trauma.

"Grief and trauma can feel overwhelming, and very isolating. We offer a safe, compassionate space where you can talk, reflect, and work through your experience in your own time and way.

"We are a small team of ten volunteers and four professional counsellors located in Collie, North Boyanup, Busselton and Albany.

"We have built strong connections with local organisations, road safety bodies including the Road Safety Commission and RAC, and aim to reduce isolation, improve mental health and foster healthy long-term resilience.

"We recognised that there was a gap in our services - a growing need for trauma support in regional and rural areas where distance, travel costs and physical and emotional limitations are a major barrier.

"This innovative technology solution will allow us to connect with those individuals face to face and provide compassionate and confidential support online and in the comfort of their own home.

"We are a community-led and volunteer-run organisation, relying on donations, fundraising, and sponsorship so we appreciate Premier Coal's financial assistance," said Tarryn.

Heart Hub South West is a grassroots, not-for-profit organisation based in Collie, supporting individuals, families and communities affected by road trauma throughout Western Australia. Offering free professional counselling, peer support, online support groups, community outreach and mindfulness workshops, the organisation provides compassionate support for those navigating grief, trauma and recovery. Heart Hub also shares lived experiences with students and community groups to raise awareness of the lasting impact of road crashes and encourage safer choices on our roads.

Premier Coal Operations Manager, Braedon Gaske, was proud to help Heart Hub South West.

“They play an important part in our community, supporting families whose lives have been affected by road trauma alongside educating young drivers, working to keep our kids safe on our roads.

“Education can lead to less suffering for those left behind and we are proud our funding could upgrade their technology so they can continue to offer the vital and unique service they provide to the people of Collie,” said Braedon.

The donation was part of the Premier Coal Community Support Program, which is funded by Yancoal and aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in Collie.

Yancoal is proud to be investing into local and regional Australia, helping build stronger communities across the country.

For over 20 years since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating eight producing mines across the country, employing over 5,500 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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