

Medical history book launched

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A simple book designed to help people quickly communicate their current medications and medical history is being launched for use on the South Coast (SA).

The Emergency Medical Information Book (EMIB) is a potentially life saving document.

In an emergency, people are often unable to communicate to ambulance or medical officers their medical history, current medications and other relevant information. A completed EMIB, kept on hand, will support paramedics and hospital staff in treating emergency cases.

The Rotary Club (District 9500) and St John Ambulance as a joint initiative devised the Emergency Medical Information Book (EMIB). The book was originally provided in small numbers to Rotary Clubs across South Australia, but is now being launched on a large scale in the South Coast for use in our local community.

This re-launch is a joint initiative of the QUM Coast (Quality Use of Medicines) project, and the Encounter Bay Rotary Club. Club President, Mr David Virgin has pledged his clubs support to the EMIB with a donation towards the cost of the book. Mr Virgin said "Rotary are thrilled to be able to be involved in such an important community project".

Local QUM Coast Committee members from the region's General Practices, South Coast District Hospital and community pharmacies are supporting the use of the EMIB.

Community members are encouraged to speak to their pharmacist or GP if they believe an Emergency Medical Information Book will be of benefit to themselves or a family member.

How does it work? Once you have received your book, on your next GP visit, ask them to print-out a Health Summary from the surgery computer. This is an accurate and up-to-date listing of all your personal details and current medications. Add this to the book, insert into the plastic pouch and when at home place it on your fridge. St John Ambulance Service have suggested that the pouch be kept on the front of the fridge as it is easily accessible and visible in an emergency.

The QUM committee has recommended that people aged 65 years and over, who are taking four medications or more should access this important document.

For more information, speak with your local General Practitioner or Pharmacist. Book will be available from local pharmacies for a gold coin donation.