

SUNBURY

Help with care program

Barry Kennedy

CARERS of elderly loved ones in Sunbury and surrounds can learn more about key financial and access changes.

Four free interactive sessions will be held fortnightly at the Sunbury Community Health Centre from next Wednesday, facilitated by Sunbury Community Health Centre aged care specialists and Carers Vic.

From July 1 the former

FREE INFORMATION SESSIONS EXPLAIN SYSTEM

funding model known as Home and Community Care (HACC) was replaced by a new support system Commonwealth Home Support Program.

Sessions co-facilitator Maria Bowman said the new model was based around carers and those needing home support deciding what services they need based on an allocated budget.

“With HACC finished, the new philosophy is really client-driven decisions on support rather than a service driven model,” she said.

“It’s about wellness, enabling and supporting continued independence and having the individual control what services they need.”

The sessions include information on what can be

accessed through Sunbury Community Health, information from Centrelink and navigating the system.

There will also be discussions of issues such as powers of attorney, advanced care planning and making difficult family decisions.

Sunbury’s Eleanor Gray, who cares for her husband Paul, told Leader there were many programs and sup-

ports which carers could access and Sunbury Community Health workers were well versed on how to access them.

Aged Care Program: carers, families and the system will be presented on August 3, August 17, August 31 and September 14 from 6.30pm to 9pm at Sunbury Community Health Centre, 12-28 Macedon St, Sunbury. RSVP by Friday. Details: Maria Bowman or Tracy Sparks on 9744 4455.