

Dear Archbishop, Rev Hart and parishioners of Goondiwindi,
From the bottom of our hearts we would really just like to thank you all for all of your support with our Farmassist Program! We have had some astonishing success with the program and it would not have been possible if it wasn't for your generous donations and advocacy.

Both Emma and myself are from farming families, we grew up on farms and Emma N is still going home most weekends to help her parents feed livestock. We understand the insidious nature of drought and the toll that it has, not just on farm and for families, but the entirety of the regional communities.

From this perspective, Emma and I just wanted to help. We wanted to actively support our local farming community and hence Farmassist was created. Supporting the feeding of livestock and the transport of hay and fodder is vital, however from a pharmacist perspective, we wanted to support the health and well being of our local farming families. Our plan was to raise money for the charity Drought Angles via a sausage sizzle and raffle, which was hugely successful. The second aspect of our appeal is the creation of a Farmassist Account at the pharmacy. This account is there to subsidise the cost of prescription medications and other essential health care items for farming families. The pharmacists determine eligibility of a customer, engage them in a conversation about the drought and assess how they are coping. We are able to place the full cost of prescription medications on the account and ask for the patient to make an account payment if they are able. Generally speaking, if we are putting a general patients' scripts on the account we would suggest a concessional co-payment amount to be contributed, if they can afford to.

The response we have had from our Farmassist appeal has been nothing short of amazing. Our local community has supported us in terms of donations and wanting to contribute to the account beyond our expectations. However, it has been the response from farming families who we have offered to pay for their medications via the Farmassist account which has been simultaneously heart-breaking and heart-warming. These are strong, independent families who have been struggling with drought conditions for years, who are breaking down in-store every day at our generosity.

We are wanting to make sure we are keeping our farming families healthy, both mentally and physically, so once the drought eventually breaks we have our farmers fit and strong. All the pharmacists in-store at Lucy Walker Pharmacy have completed mental health first aid training. Furthermore, we have been providing flu-vaccines for the 2019 season in-store via the Farmassist program.

We honestly have a dozen examples per day of how we are helping our local farmers. They are heartfelt, raw and honest. We are wanting to continue to help our local community, but we also have plans to try and help as many rural and regional pharmacies and farming families as we can.

Thank you so much for your generosity, spirit and comradeship. Without your help we would not have been able to help our farming community like we have.

Cheers,
The Emmas

Lucy Walker Pharmacy
TerryWhite Chemmart Goondiwindi
95 Marshall St, Goondiwindi QLD 4390
P: (07) 4671 1288 F: (07) 4671 3100
E: lucywalkerpharmacy@hotmail.com

ABN: 56 231 954 759

terrywhitechemmart.com.au