

Funding for diabetes program

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Award-winning diabetes educator Ann Morris is thrilled with funding for a new program.

DIABETES educator Ann Morris believes a new federal government program has the potential to save lives.

The program gives young Australians access to free glucose monitoring devices.

"It's massive for families, especially those with one or more children with Type 1 diabetes," Ms Morris said.

"We have a lot of young people in this region who will benefit from this announcement."

The glucose monitors funded through the program alert users or their parents if glucose levels are getting too low, without the need for continuous finger prick tests.

The federal government has poured \$54 million into the program.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said the program would help reduce stress and anxiety and will save those accessing it \$4000 a year.

The program is opened to people under 21.

There are 4000 families in Australia with one or more children with Type 1 diabetes.

Ms Morris said the size of the funding was a pleasant surprise.

"I expected there may be a subsidy through the National Diabetes Supply Scheme but I didn't expect it to be free," Ms Morris said.

"This is wonderful news for every family with a child with diabetes."

Ms Morris said she, Diabetes Australia and the Danii Foundation had been advocating for many years for the delivery of a program like this.

The Danii Foundation was formed to campaign to get alarm technology into as many households as necessary following the death of 17-year-old Danii Meads-Barlow as a result of nocturnal hypoglycaemia.

Ms Morris is hosting an interactive workshop on April 20 at the Quest Apartments upstairs function room in Warrnambool.

At this session, she will explain how to use the continuous glucose monitoring system and its benefits.

All people with type 1 diabetes are invited to the event, including those on insulin pump therapy.

People wishing to attend the workshop can RSVP on 0419377762.

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