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Page 1 of 1

# Passing on good health message

## HEALTH

BY ANTHONY BRADY

### Warrnambool

THE knowledge of a Warrnambool-based health expert is having a positive impact in China.

Professor Peter Harvey was part of a delegation from Warrnambool that visited the town's Chinese sister city Changchun.

The delegation's discussions in China centered around student exchanges, training, research projects and adapting locally-developed chronic condition assessment tools.

The latter was where the skills of Professor Harvey came into play.

Professor Harvey presented a series of lectures on the development of chronic illness management and self-management in Australia and how this work could inform chronic illness management strategies in China.

Professor Harvey said health department leaders in Changchun were keen to understand and apply the locally developed assessment tools. He said a relationship had also been struck with Jilin University in Changchun.

"They were particularly interested in our chronic disease self-management work," Professor Harvey said.

"China has a looming chronic disease management crisis, including diabetes, hypertension, lung disorders and other lifestyle-related conditions.

"Hopefully, as the research gets going, we will be supervising students in conjunction with Jilin University."

The Centre for Disease Control and Management in Changchun is planning to send a team of health professionals to Australia to study the care planning process with a view to establishing ongoing collaboration with Deakin and Flinders univer-

sities.

Deakin and Flinders universities have an ongoing collaboration based on the work of the Deakin Rural Health unit and Professor Harvey's academic links to Flinders University.

Deakin Rural Health will also work with Jilin University on potential student exchanges to complement the general program.

Professor Harvey said the Changchun province was home to about seven million people, including many rural itinerant workers who have health conditions that need to be managed.