

## NEWS



**ORGANISED:** Special guest Taryn Brumfitt, event organiser Amorette Zielinski. 0907jkmum9



**LOTS OF FUN:** Sarah Sokol, Jo Plokstys and Lucy McEvoy. 0907jkmum1



**PAMPERED:** Lottie Johnston and Katherine Lord. 0907jkmum4

## MUM FEST PROVES A HIT

Mums from across the Central West converged on The Greenhouse, Orange on Saturday afternoon in an effort to bridge the gap between online and offline community. Central West Mums, NSW, is an online Facebook group designed to offer support for mums in the region but Saturday's event was a chance for those members to meet in person, enjoy some pampering, live music and socialise with other women from Orange and afar at the event dubbed 'Mum Fest', organised by Amorette Zielinski.



**TOGETHER:** Tracey Greatbatch and Justine Farrell. 0907jkmum10



**ENJOYING THE WEEKEND:** Megan Fos, Leiarna Dunworth, Rach Dunn and Siobhain Harvey. 0907jkmum8



**ENJOYING THE AFTERNOON:** Elyse Dobson, Rachel Diduszko and Susan Cook. 0907jkmum5



**NETWORKING MUMS:** Celia Lanser, Rebecca Mitchell and Donna Thornton. 0907jkmum2



**GREAT AFTERNOON:** Michelle Curry, Rachel Bowker, Bec Darlington and Belinda Urza. 0907jkmum6

# Carers urged to speak up

BY NADINE MORTON

ORANGE'S aged care workers, providers and also those who once worked in the industry are being urged to give input at a series of community meetings across the Central West before the royal commission into Australia's aged care sector arrives at Mudgee in November.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety Mudgee hearing will run November 4-6 and it will be the only hearing in

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Any ideas for improvement that people may have, we're really interested in hearing.

**Royal Commission's spokeswoman**

regional NSW.

Ahead of the hearing, a se-

ries of community meetings will be held in Mudgee and Dubbo in September to provide more information and encourage people to make a submission.

"These meetings will give the public the chance to discuss the strengths, challenges and opportunities to improve aged care in regional areas," a commission spokeswoman said.

"The royal commission wants to hear from a range of people who've had an experience with aged care, be it

good, bad or indifferent.

"Come along and find out more about what the commission is about, what we're investigating and why we want people to make submissions."

The spokeswoman said the public, aged care workers, providers and also those who once worked in the industry but are now retired are urged to give input at the community meetings.

"Any experience, view or ideas for improvement that people may have, we're real-

ly interested in hearing about those," she said.

Earlier this year Calare MP Andrew Gee warned that people should be prepared to hear more shocking and appalling cases of neglect and mistreatment.

A Central West aged care nurse told Australian Community Media that she had been the victim of inappropriate touching and assault by residents.

In March this year, Pioneer House Aged Care in Mudgee had sanctions imposed

on it after allegedly failing to adequately provide for residents. In May its CEO stepped down.

Meanwhile, Parkes aged care resident Valda Gosper praised her treatment to the *Parkes Champion Post* and said: "I often wonder if I'm treated any better than the queen".

The Central West community meetings will be held at Dubbo's Milestone Hotel on September 16 and 18 and at Club Mudgee on September 16 and 17.