

Health study milestone

GABRIELLE YOUNG

YESTERDAY saw the 100th Busselton 'baby boomer' participate in the town's biggest study into health.

Di Richardson was randomly selected for the Busselton Healthy Ageing Study which aims to contribute to the development of strategies for facilitating healthy and productive ageing in the general community.

Senior scientist Michael Hunter said the response rates had been excellent so far.

"We are testing 2500 people initially and with more funding we want to take that number to 5000, which will mean roughly one in two people in the age group will be in-

involved in the study in the next three years," he said.

Dr Hunter said participants got a comprehensive health check including access to a new bone density machine funded by a grant from the National Health Medical Research Centre.

"Our message is if you receive a letter of invitation or phone call to respond, it's not too late," he said.

Mrs Richardson said the study was a great way of helping keep her own health in check.

She said she thought the key to healthy ageing was exercise and a positive and happy outlook.

To contact the clinic phone 9754 0548 or for more information visit www.bhas.org.au



Busselton Health Study's 100th participant Di Richardson with research nurses Shelley Cheetham and Darby Bennett. PICTURE: DEREK POOL

Red tape chop backed

Hairdressers support bill to cut regulations

NATALIE BROWN

BUSSELTON hairdressers have added weight to a Parliamentary debate to scrap a regulations body in the hope of drawing more staff to the region.

Vasse MLA Troy Buswell, argued in favour of a bill to abolish the Hairdressers Registration Board, which he introduced when he was Minister for Commerce, to reduce red tape and make hiring staff easier for regional areas such as Busselton.

Mr Buswell said his own hairdresser, Amanda Hudson of Busselton's The Barber Shop raised the issue with him several times because the need for registration with the board meant staff from other states or overseas could not easily be hired. He said the barbers had run into difficulty hiring an overseas resident, who had experience in some of the United Kingdom's leading salons, because she was not registered through the board.

"It is absolutely ridiculous to expect that a person would come to Perth and have to take a course to get the tick to be a hairdresser when that responsibility should rest with the owner of the hairdressing facility," he said in Parliament.

Mr Buswell said other Busselton hairdressers he had spoken to also indicated a desire to abolish the board.

Mrs Hudson told the *Times* the board required staff to undertake exams before they could trade in WA, even if they had worked in their profession for many years.

She said it was difficult to attract



The Barber Shop's Amanda Hudson wants regulations reduced so she can attract more staff to her business. PICTURE: DEREK POOL

staff in Busselton and allowing the employer to assess a hairdresser's skills would make hiring easier and while cutting her local member's hair, decided to raise the issue.

"If you ask any hairdresser in town they won't agree with it (the board). . . I think there shouldn't be regulation at all, you regulate within the salon," she said.

Consumer Protection commissioner Anne Driscoll said reviews of the hairdressing industry at a State and national level found complaints about hairdressers were low and the proposal to abolish the

board was consistent with reforms to reduce red tape and the regulatory burden on small businesses, standardise practices across jurisdictions and improve the mobility of workers across the country to address skills shortages.

The bill was passed in the legislative assembly and sent to the legislative council for approval.

The Hairdressers Registration Board directed questions to the Department of Commerce.

Mr Buswell did not respond to questions from the *Times* this week.

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