A drug and alcohol community organisation that helps rehabilitate people has received a timely gift in the form of a $17500 Government vehicle.

Family and Community Services Minister Marion Scrymgour said the Mitsubishi Magna gifted to FORWAARD, the Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties Incorporated, was one part of the Community Services Obligations scheme.

“FORWAARD does great work in the community helping people to beat their alcoholism and drug and alcohol addictions,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The car will give the organisation more scope to assist in the administration of the vital services they provide such as transporting clients to various appointments and external agencies.

“It will better facilitate the services FORWAARD provides.”

FORWAARD executive manager Leon James welcomed the gift and said the new addition would allow the organisation to trade in the older vehicle for a 4WD.

Mr James said a 4WD would allow FORWAARD access more cultural programs, particularly during the wet season.

“We have a bus at the moment but we’re pretty limited in what we can do during the wet season,” he said.

“As part of the clients’ rehabilitation we like to reintroduce people to their culture that may have been lost through drinking and drugging.

“They practice this as sober people and they get back to their natural environment.

“During tight financial times I would really like to thank Minister Scrymgour and Minister Stirling for their support in offering us a vehicle.”

FORWAARD was incorporated 26 years ago and emphasises the positive achievements possible through a healthy lifestyle without drugs or alcohol.

The organisation provides a 16 bed, 12-week residential treatment program and a non-residential alcohol and other drug assessment and counselling service.