Caring Communities Program — Project Overview

Organisation: ACT Hospice Palliative Care Society Inc.
Name of Project: Enhancing Community Understanding of Palliative Care
Length of Project: Two years 2003 to 2005

Project Summary:
The ACT Hospice Palliative Care Society will appoint a part-time project officer who will work in partnership with Clare Holland House to plan, implement and manage a program of activities.

The activities will be directed at the community and at professionals and non professionals working in palliative care. They aim to enhance community understanding and awareness of palliative care and to improve the skills of these groups to effectively meet the needs of dying people and their families. The activities include developing a resource package in palliative care and running community education programs.

Project Objectives:
To foster and strengthen palliative care partnerships through the establishment of channels of communication, exchange of information, development of appropriate resources.

To improve the level of community understanding and awareness of palliative care by providing information, encouraging discussion and seeking out opportunities to publicise and promote the role of palliative care, the contribution of the palliative care team and means of accessing services.

To enhance the knowledge and understanding amongst palliative care professionals of the non-medical needs of dying people and the capacity of professionals and non-professionals to meet these needs through the development of appropriate resource materials.

To provide encouragement and support for individuals and families involved in caring for a loved one to ensure the person can be cared for in the setting of their choice for as long as possible, and to ensure that communities have the availability of appropriate resource materials to enable them to expand their capacity to care.

Project Activities:

Appoint a Project Officer for 10 hours weekly over the two years of the project to develop the following:

1. **Resource Package**
   Develop a package of materials to increase community awareness and understanding and to assist access to palliative care services including:
   - Palliative care booklet on the dying experience
   - Directory of appropriate services available in the ACT and Southern NSW region
   - Brochures on specific topics including access to palliative care, organisations and networks that provide support and care for palliative care users
   - Fact sheets on subjects relating to palliative care

   The Project Officer will work with a Reference Group made up of key stakeholders in palliative care to develop the content and approve the final product. A Planning Committee/Steering Group will assist the Project Officer in producing and publishing these materials.

2. **Community Education Sessions**
   The Project Officer will plan and develop presentations to community groups and the general community (such as service clubs, relevant social and interest groups, professional organisations etc) aimed at stimulating awareness and educating people about the role of

palliative care. Presentations will be made at least once every six months in a community setting.