Telehealth in the Home enabled by the NBN in South Australia

Older Australians in need of home-based palliative care or rehabilitation are among those benefiting from a Telehealth in the Home project, delivered via the National Broadband Network (NBN) in South Australia (SA). The project will investigate the effect of online support provided to the homes and primary residences of patients and carers in the Southern Adelaide and Fleurieu Region. The support is based on a team approach that integrates the patient and their carers, GPs, primary health care providers, aged care facilities and specialist services.

The project is led by Flinders University, in partnership with the SA Rehabilitation Statewide Clinical Network, the SA Older People Clinical Network, and the SA Palliative Care Clinical Network.

The project aims to:

- improve access to health services and improve the wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in our local communities. The current home visiting model includes extensive travel time for the clinician which limits the number of patients seen each day. Telehealth technology has the capacity to improve clinical responsiveness and reduce social isolation
- change the clinical service delivery by evaluating a way of providing care that utilises technology to enhance clinical service development and improvement through rigorous research
- provide a unique opportunity for cross-collaboration and partnerships between Flinders University, SA Health, community health services, independent practitioners and community aged care providers, working with the patients and their carers to put them at the heart of service development and implementation.

Intended outcomes include a better quality of healthcare for the ageing and those requiring palliative care at home through improved opportunities to coordinate care across generalist and specialist providers using NBN-enabled Telehealth technology.

Involvement in this innovative new project is based on hospital and GP referrals of patients living at home or within residential care facilities within NBN enabled areas.

Further information can be obtained from
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Funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Health & Ageing and under the National Broadband Network (NBN) Enabled Telehealth Pilot Program. The NBN is an initiative of the Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy.

National Broadband Network
Flinders University
Government of South Australia
SA Health