LOCAL PALLIATIVE CARE GRANTS PROGRAM – ROUND 1

Name of Project: Enhancing physical resources for palliative care patients and delivery of workforce development and training programs to support palliative care services in the Shoalhaven Region.

Name of participant: South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Aged Health Service – David Berry Hospital – Shoalhaven Rehabilitation Aged & Extended Care Service.

David Berry Hospital

85 Tannery Rd

BERRY NSW 2535

Project timeframe: February 2006 – January 2007

Summary

This project incorporates palliative care workforce development training for acute hospital and community staff, and for general practitioners.

Purpose of Project

To improve the provision of specialist palliative care inpatient services at Karinya and in the broader Shoalhaven community.

Activities

Workforce development training for acute hospital and community staff.

- conduct of a needs analysis of existing staff.
- development of a training program that reflected information gleaned from the needs analysis.
- training delivery, which included evaluation of participant satisfaction in the program.

Workforce development training for general practitioners

- appointment of a staff specialist palliative care physician to deliver the program.
- liaison with division of general practice to analyse GP needs.
- development of a training program utilising information from GP needs analysis.
- training delivery.

Results

Training for acute hospital and community staff

- 38 participants attended a one day training course on palliative care. 15 attended a six day training program on advanced palliative care.
- development of competency based education on syringe drivers.
- a total of 305 participants have attended in-service sessions.

Training for GPs

- four sessions were held for general practitioners. 98 GPs attended specialist training from throughout the region. Additional practice nurses and community health nurses also attended many of these sessions.
- phone consultations and requests for assistance have increased among the target group as a result. Specialist clinicians report that GPs have more information about current practice and are utilising resources to ask for assistance.

Note: Equipment purchase appropriate for palliative care was also a component of this project