**Caring Communities Program - Project Overview**

**Organisation:** Central Sydney Area Health Service (CSAHS)
**Name of Project:** Predictors of home death in residents of CSAHS dying of cancer
**Length of Project:** 3 years

**Project Summary**

Most people say that when the time comes they would prefer to die at home, but only a few achieve this goal. Many factors will determine the place of death. Surveys indicate an association between factors related to the patient, their disease and their care system and the place of death. The aim of the project id is to determine which of these factors are causal for place of death in residents of CSAHS. This information will sustainably improve individual patient care by identifying those factors that can be ameliorated within the available resources, such as varying the amount of professional support provided.

**Project Objectives**

1. To support the coordination of care for the person who is dying and their family by identifying reversible factors (patient and carer) that prevent a home death occurring.

**Project Activities**

1. Convene project management group* – 1st meeting scheduled for 16/05/03.
   * consists of Dr Glare, clinical epidemiologist, GP, Palliative Care community nurse, academic nurse and consumer.

2. Undertake case-control study of 100 home (cases) and 100 (age, sex, disease – matched controls) hospital cancer deaths in CSAHS during the past 2-3 years to determine relative risk for home death according to various patient, carer* and disease related factors.
   * where possible, carers will be interviewed.

3. Report on project, including strategies for overcoming – within available resources – factors mitigating against home death will be provided.