Caring Communities Program - Project Overview

Organisation: NT Carers Association Inc.

Name of Project: Top End Palliative Care Volunteer Service Project

Length of Project: 2 years

Project Summary:

NT Carers Association Inc. in cooperation with Territory Palliative Care aim to employ a project worker to recruit, train, coordinate and support a pool of volunteers in the Darwin and Katherine areas. The project will be monitored by a committee of key stakeholders.

Project Objectives:

1. The project coordinator will be required to recruit volunteers in the Darwin and Katherine areas as well as investigate current available training options for volunteers. This training will be made available over a minimum of 7 sessions to at least 60 volunteers during the project period.
2. The volunteers will provide a range of support to Carers, families and friends, as well as the dying person. The volunteers will also assist with some office based tasks including promotion of the service, and key activities such as Carers Week and Palliative Care Week.
3. It is expected that the project coordinator will continue to provide ongoing support and debriefing to volunteers throughout the term of the project, and will refer to professional counselling services if required.

Project Activities:

1. The project also aims to increase community awareness about palliative care and the services available to the target group. The coordinator will hold shopping centre and market displays and investigate potential ways of advertising the project.
2. Supporting the volunteers is a crucial part of maintaining this valuable resource, and monthly social/debriefing sessions will be held. Evaluating that enough support is provided to the volunteers will be maintained by other staff within NT Carers Association.
3. As the project is time limited, it is an expectation that volunteers will also be trained to continue the work of the coordinator with the two key agencies to maintain the project after the funding has ceased.