LOCAL PALLIATIVE CARE GRANTS PROGRAM - ROUND 1

Name of project: Coordinated Home Support for Palliative Care Services in Central East Queensland.

Organisation: Mackay Division of General Practice

43 Evans Ave

Mackay QLD 4740

www.mackaydgp.com.au

Duration of the Project: February 2006 - December 2006

Purpose of the Project: To improve people's choice of appropriate palliative care in their homes through the development of local systems that better coordinate existing palliative care service providers.

Activities:

- conducted a review of palliative care services and stakeholders in the district;
- identified and recruited an advisory group from local stakeholders;
- project coordinator worked with rural areas to develop local support systems;
- relationship developed with the Queensland Palliative Care Information Service and use made of its support and resources for the benefit of the community; and
- collaboration between stakeholders resulting in the establishment of;
    - a regional equipment pool,
    - a generic referral system,
    - clarification of patient referral criteria,
    - One Community Palliative Care Program,
    - identification and publication of available expertise and resources available locally and nationally.

Results

- the review of palliative care services and stakeholders in the region provided a base for the establishment of a strong, united Project Advisory Group;
- strategies evolved to support services providing in-home care; the main strategy involved providing information to both GPs and patients regarding the nature of palliative care, and where to find support and assistance;
- towards the end of the project community based nursing services were receiving electronic referrals from GPs;
- a system of sharing equipment was devised between hospitals and community nursing services; and,

- expansion of local resources as a result of improved communication and collaboration; including the identification of already existing resources and the creation of new ones.

Resources produced

For GPs:

- GP Handbook titled “Mackay & District Palliative Care Guide for GPs” contains GP resources, medication information, guidelines for syringe driver management, referral and advance health directives plus information on all of the local services that paly a role in palliative care in the Mackay area.
- Web page with information and links including electronic templates for GPs to download.

For patients:

- a booklet explaining locally available palliative care services, catering to the whole community.
- pain management diary.