LOCAL PALLIATIVE CARE GRANTS PROGRAM – ROUND 1

Name of project: PresCare Palliative Care Education Program

Organisation: The Presbyterian Church of Queensland trading as PresCare

PO Box 15-136

City East,

BRISBANE QLD 4002

Duration of project: January 2006 – January 2007

Purpose: The aim of the project was to increase the palliative care capacity of PresCare services in residential and community aged care. As a result, staff will be able to better respond to the palliative care needs of residential and community aged care clients, their carers and families.

Activities

- improve the skills of key staff in the Palliative Approach for ongoing palliative care education and support of other staff;
- develop education, training and retention programs to bring staff skills to a level consistent with contemporary standards, including those outlined in the *Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care*;
- foster professional support networks proposed under the *Residential Aged Care Palliative Approach Network* to promote the palliative approach and support evidence-based palliative care practices;
- review palliative care assessment, care management and discharge practices to ensure consistency with *Guidelines* for best practice;
- establish community links to promote community awareness of contemporary palliative care practices;
- implement the education program for staff and volunteers; and
- review the program.

Results: The project resulted in better access to palliative care for residents, clients and their families. Survey results indicate that approximately 400 residents and clients were assisted during the conduct of the project through the following measures:

- development of 'Train the Trainer' packages;
- 13 people from various sites across the organisation were trained;
- development of training packages for each staff category e.g. RN, Administration, and support staff;
- establishment and education of a PEPA support team in line with the Guidelines and PresCare palliative care education training program;
- review of PresCare's palliative care policies and procedures in residential and community services;

- establishment of network supports and linkages within residential facilities and community services, as well as with other health professionals and key stakeholders; and
- analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the training program, looking at how staff have incorporated training into their current work practices, content of training manuals and benefits for residents/clients and families.