Final Report
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- St. Luke's Nursing Service: Margaret Robertson and Ruth Rowan
- Zoe's Place: Pamela Barker, Diane Williams
- Community Consultation: Elizabeth Mosely, Carol Edwards and Judith Smith
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Kathy Laurent
Project Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Palliative Care Volunteer Network Initiative was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing's Caring Communities Program. The goal of the project was to enhance, develop and expand volunteer palliative care support services to more effectively meet the needs of people with a terminal illness and their families in the community. Research methods were used to identify the existing gaps in the palliative care services within Brisbane and a model for a new service was developed using a consultative process. The new service was launched in February 2005 and was piloted for six months. A service evaluation reveals that volunteers and clients appear to be satisfied with the operations of the service but the results are unreliable due to the small size of the sample. It is recommended that the service be reevaluated in June 2006. The project plan has been completed with all the performance indicators having been met, albeit late in some cases. Caring Connections faces an uncertain future for various reasons. As was predicted, sustainability is the biggest threat to the continuity of the service.