LOCAL PALLIATIVE CARE GRANTS PROGRAM - ROUND 1

Name of project: Taking Control: Quality of Life in End of Life Decision Making.

Organisation: Resthaven Incorporated

237 Glen Osmond Rd

FREWVILLE SA 5063

Duration of the Project: January 2006 to December 2006.

Project Summary: The participant developed strategies for advanced care planning and use of advance care directives. The project also involved a review of internal policies and team training in mentoring staff to ensure the provision of quality palliative care services.

Purpose of the Project: The purpose of the project was to enhance the quality of life for Resthaven clients by empowering older people and their carers to make informed decisions and choices about options for care in end of life. The project also developed models for providing continuum of care for Resthaven clients from early intervention to end of life.

Activities:

- reviewed advance directives policy;
- carried out research on education/information sessions, including liaison with the Respecting Patient Choices project (QEH) and discussions with staff and residents/clients;
- developed power point presentations for education/information sessions for residents/clients and staff;
- developed brochure - *Advance Directives, Choices for your Future;*
- developed pamphlet for residents/clients highlighting access service for support;
- briefings to increase staff understanding and confidence in discussing advance directives; and
- modification of the advance directives policy to reflect the provision of information and the identification, storage and transfer of documents;

Results

- development of educational materials and training ensures the initiatives explored during the project are now part of organisational culture;
- staff who attended information/education sessions are better equipped for thinking about their own and their families' advance care directives, and in discussing directives with residents/clients;
- a review of the End of Life policy resulted in its incorporation in Resthaven's broader, draft Palliative Care policy.

Resources produced

- Advance directive brochure (anticipated distribution of 500 per year)
- Self Paced Learning Package for staff to increase their knowledge, skills and attitudes relating to the legal and ethical issues of Advance Directives