Caring Communities Program - Project Overview

Organisation:	Kangaroo Island Health Service
Name of Project:	Kangaroo Island Palliative Care Project
Length of Project:	2 years
Partner Organisations:	Local Ministers' Fraternal, the local General Practice, Kangaroo Island Hospital and Aged Care Services

Project Summary:
This project will develop a Volunteer Support Program, based at Kangaroo Island Health Service, which will provide long term practical and emotional assistance for those who are dying, complementing professional services already available. Support will focus on being able to meet the needs of isolated rural community members, wither in their own homes, in Kangaroo Islands' residential aged care facility of in Kangaroo Island's acute in-patient facility. Long term sustainability of the overall Program will be one of the main goals.

Project Objectives:
1. Develop and provide appropriate palliative care information and education opportunities for Kangaroo Island residents who are dying their families, carers and friends that will enhance the support and care they are provided.

2. Establishment of a Volunteer Support program that will provide long term practical and emotional assistance for people who are dying either at home or in an institutional setting, complementing professional services already available.

3. Develop a collaborative network of support between off Island specialist palliative care services, health professionals on Kangaroo Island, volunteer supports and the community.

Project Activities:
1. Establishment of a Palliative Care Reference Group to enhance collaboration between health care service providers and provide support and advice to the overall Project.

2. Employment as a part-time project worker to establish the Volunteer Support Program – this will include the development of a management system, recruitment of volunteer coordinator and volunteers, volunteer training and the development of support programs. This program will be ongoing after the completion of the Project, supported by the Kangaroo Island Health Service.