Caring Communities Program - Project Overview

Organisation: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania
Midlands Multi Purpose Health Centre
Name of Project: Empowering the Southern Midlands Community through Information and Integration.
Length of Project: 1.5 years

Project Summary:
The project aims to increase the knowledge base of health professionals, key community agencies and the residents of the Southern Midlands Municipality regarding Palliative Care issues, across the continuum of care. To achieve this, specialist Palliative Care Units and Peak Bodies have offered to work closely with the Midlands Multi Purpose Health Centre and the local community. The main focus of the project will be to offer specific education and support to local workers and agencies, who will then form a project working team to develop necessary resources, reflecting local needs. The project will focus on active involvement of identified individuals, who will work towards set goals and outcomes and will also include support to develop an ongoing Volunteer service.

Project Objectives:
1. To develop a model of practice, specifically suited to the local area.

2. To forge stronger and clearer links with specialist palliative care units and Peak Body groups.

3. To enhance the knowledge and skills of locally based (rural) workers.

4. To enhance the equity of access to services for isolated residents.

5. To increase the involvement of key community groups and community services.

6. To promote understanding of providers and members of local communities.

7. To provide a small, locally-base equipment store of care items.

8. To establish a high profile, local, flexible and responsive approach to palliative care.

9. To select, train and coordinate volunteers to provide support to clients.

Project Activities:
1. Education for all staff, utilising specific modules, presented by specialist units.

2. Nominations for involvement on project group, from a range of disciplines and agencies.

3. Development of resources for:
   - Service model
   - Protocols
   - Care plans
   - Information brochures

- Referral checklist
- Strategy for isolated people
- Family support model

4. Identify key agencies in the community and offer training.

5. Recruit, select and train volunteers.

6. Promotion campaign throughout the community, including offering a range of options.

7. Establishing equipment pool.