

Dear Residents and Key Contacts

Hospice in the RACF Project Update
October 2021 – December 2022.

Eldercare is a leader in providing palliative care in aged care and we are pleased to provide you with an update on the activities of Eldercare's *Hospice in the RACF Project* that commenced in October 2021.



(L – R): Operational Services Executive Anne-Marie Gillard, Chief Executive Jane Pickering, and Corporate Services Executive Scott Morgan

The project has been made possible through the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments under the Comprehensive Palliative Care in Aged Care Project.

Hospice in the RACF Project is running at 7 Eldercare sites:

[Acacia Court](#) [Allambi](#) [Cottage Grove](#) [Evanston Park](#) [Sash Ferguson](#) [Seaford](#)
[Trowbridge House](#)

With the project drawing to a close in December 2022 a number of activities that were trialed in the project will move to business as usual in 2023:

- During the project 163 residents were assessed through the Needs Rounds process. Needs Rounds bring together the clinical staff, Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners/Clinical Nurse, GPs, and palliative care specialists to plan and provide the best palliative care available to residents. Needs rounds are often followed by a case conference where the resident, their representatives/family members, key staff and GPs will meet to complete advance care and palliative care planning to ensure the best possible care. **Where you believe a case conference would be of benefit, please contact your Clinical Leader.**
- Eldercare has provided a specialist team of Palliative Care Nurse Practitioners for some years now and this will continue post-project. During the project a trial with a specialist Palliative Care Clinical Nurse was completed and this role will be added to the specialist palliative care team. This team provides additional

palliative care advice and supports the site clinical team and GPs to provide the best possible palliative care and end-of-life care and avoid admissions to hospital where care can be managed in the facility.

- Family Information Sessions about Advance Care Planning and Palliative Care for residents suffering dementia have been completed at two of the sites with positive feedback from participants. The possibility of continuing these sessions is being explored.

Through this project Eldercare is trialing care assistant traineeships with an emphasis on palliative care. Nineteen trainees are currently participating in the 12 month program that will finish in February-April 2023. Traineeships provide opportunities for a career change to the care assistant role by offering paid positions and covering the costs of completion the Certificate 3 in Individual Support (Aged Care). Four Eldercare Hospitality Assistants have transitioned to the Care Assistant role using this program. The feasibility of continuing to provide this program post project is being evaluated.

Education, support and training are essential for Eldercare staff to be able to provide the best possible palliative and end of life care. Education and training programs completed during the project will be recorded and made available to staff in the future as part of Eldercare's comprehensive toolbox training program.

The training completed during the project includes:

- Enrolled Nurse placements at specialist hospice services
- Palliative care and end of life medications for nursing staff
- Education of nursing staff in assisting residents and loved ones in advance care planning
- Seventy-five care assistants trained in providing good palliative care and identifying deterioration in the health of a resident through 1-Day workshops

This project has strengthened Eldercare's links with external specialist palliative care services, including medical specialists, that may assist Eldercare with complex palliative care situations and enable management of complex care in the facility rather than requiring a transfer to hospital.

If you have any questions with regard to the project, please contact the Clinical Care Manager at the RACF.

Jane Pickering

Chief Executive