

Respecting Patient Choices® Program for Community Health Services

Dear Service Providers,

The Advance Care Planning Program, Respecting Patient Choices® (RPC) will be rolling out across CNAHS region in 2010 in line with the *SA Health Care Plan 2007-2016* commitment to including advance care planning as part of the strategy to provide appropriate health care to an aging population (p.14). Advance care planning enables patient-centred care at the end of life, improving patient, family and staff satisfaction. RPC provides a framework for helping people with advance care planning as part of routine care through out the community and acute continuum of care.

The Ambulatory and Primary Health Care Directorate has established the CNAHS Respecting Patient Choices Task Group which will provide leadership and direction in the development of a regional approach to advanced care planning. This will focus on ensuring that CNAHS health services;

- ❖ recognise the importance of advance directives in care planning and clinical decision making
- ❖ have systems in place that ensure advance directives are in place and acted upon
- ❖ strengthen system-wide capacity to engage people in timely advanced care planning.

The Respecting Patient Choices® Program (RPCP) in SA

The RPCP was introduced and adapted to Australia (under licence) in 2002 by the Austin Hospital in Victoria and the program commence in SA at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 2004. The program's aims include:

- ❖ Quality end of life care and good death clinical care consistent with patient's preferences when capacity is lost;
- ❖ Improved decision making process; Improved patient's well-being by reducing frequency of over or under treatment;
- ❖ Reduce patient's concern regarding possible burden placed on family and others.

The program philosophy supports respect for a person's autonomy and dignity and does not support euthanasia or assisted suicide. The Austin Health National Respecting Patient Choices webpage is a wealth of information and can be visited on <http://www.respectingpatientchoices.org.au/> and the original Respecting Patient Choices Program® website is <http://www.respectingchoices.org/>.

The Anticipatory Direction document makes known a person's preference for medical treatment if in the future they are incapable of deciding for themselves. It applies only when they are in the terminal phase of a terminal illness or a persistent vegetative state. It can be used as a stand alone document or as an accompaniment to the Medical Power of Attorney or Enduring Power of Guardianship.

Based on the success of the pilot, RPCP was extended to local residential care facilities and GP practices. More than 400 acute, community and country staff have trained as advance care planning facilitators, resulting in at least 1300 patients registered with advance care plans. Residents presenting to TQEH Emergency Department from aged



care facilities are now five times more likely to have an advance care plan than before the program.

In order to support agencies and service providers within the CNAHS region, information and training sessions are being offered to community service providers. The aim is to provide all agencies and allied health services with an awareness of the program, the ability to support clients in completing advanced directives and knowledge of how the program initiatives relate to patient care and quality health outcomes.

The current initiative will assist service providers to incorporate RPC as a sustainable aspect of regular program delivery within their organisation.

The Respecting Patient Choices® 2010 Training Program includes **Facilitators Training**, which is available online as e-learning modules, followed by a one-day workshop. The training is accredited by the Royal College of Nursing Australia and attracts 15 CNE points for professional development towards annual registration. Training days are being coordinated at CNAHS hospitals and available to community service provider staff. **Train the Trainer** e-learning modules and workshops are also available once the facilitator workshop has been completed.

For more information about the Program or to arrange an on-site staff awareness session please contact the Community Project Officers:

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or

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or

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Phone 8222 8498

Alternatively please return the attached request for information form in the reply paid envelope provided and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Banham and Lorrain Jones
Community Project Officers
Respecting Patient Choices® Program
CNAHS



Respecting Patient Choices® Program Information Request

Organisation/Agency Name: _____

Key Contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Visit request: (please nominate type below)

Individual information session

Group information session

Preferred day: _____

Preferred Time: AM / PM